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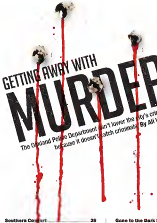

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

The Oakland Police Department can't lower the city's crime rate, because it doesn't catch criminals. By Ali Winston

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Get thee to So[illegible]'s Restaurant for stick-to-your-ribs soul food classics and one of the best Sunday buffet bargains in town.

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Oakland's Some Ember and The Soft Moon turn personal exploration into darkwave

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Wednesday November 28
6 30PM
(see website for location)

EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY
Tuesday December 4
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TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP (MA) and TRANSFORMATIVE STUDIES (PhD)
Thursday December 6
5 00PM–6 00PM room 425

CREATIVE INQUIRY INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS and WRITING AND CONSCIOUSNESS (MFA)
Thursday December 6
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SOMATIC PSYCHOLOGY
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EAST WEST PSYCHOLOGY
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On the Cover *Illustration by Brian Kelly.*

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Do we continue on the same destructive path of greed and competition or build a safer and fairer way of life for everyone? We have a choice

- Growing voice of people calling for justice and change • Crop circles appearing overnight
- Increasing UFO sightings around the world • Star-like luminaries shining in the sky
- The emergence of the World Teacher for all Humanity
- Find out how those extraordinary events are related

Demands for Justice and Freedom

UFO with Comet-like tail, China

UFO over Mount Fuji, Japan

Spiral Light from UFO, Norway

Crop Circle, England

EVENT INFORMATION

A talk and video presentation by Michiko Ishikawa

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Oakland Museum James Moore Theater

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Michiko Ishikawa has lectured widely in the US and Japan and is a co-worker of British artist and author Benjamin Creme for over 30 years. She has edited most of Creme's books on the emergence of Maitreya, the World Teacher, including *The Great Approach, New Light and Life for Humanity, Maitreya's Teachings, The Laws of Life, The World Teacher for All Humanity, Maitreya's Mission, The Awakening of Humanity, Unity in Diversity, The Gathering of the Forces of Light, UFOs and their Spiritual Mission*.

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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

A Death Trap

As a former resident from 1969-75 currently dealing with multiple sclerosis and cancer, along with the deaths of many childhood friends who resided on Treasure Island during this period, I have two suggestions: Do not believe what the Navy is trying to sell you. These are the sins of our fathers. Run like hell! Don't take time to pack. Run now! Treasure Island is a death trap!

Emile J. Monkin, San Diego

The Sessions and the Soul

I worked for and became friends with Mark O'Brien in the late 1970s and early '80s. It was eerie to see how brilliantly John Hawkes re-creates Mark in the film *The Sessions*: his signature raspy voice, his extreme sensitivity — often verging on total panic — about being touched (especially his feet), his refreshing sense of humor. I agree with Kelly Vance that Ben Lewin's script and tight direction sparkle, yet it's strange for me to see this episode of Mark's life filtered for mass consumption as a lighthearted comedy because, as anyone who knew Mark would probably readily attest, Mark's life was no laugh fest. His suffering was obvious to anyone who met him. In spite of this, he was steadfast about doing what he wanted to do with his life: write journalism and poetry, go to a baseball game, go to the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, and so on. Enthusiastic supporters of Mark's poetry were the renowned English professor and poet Peter Dale Scott, and Gary Soto, who was teaching at Berkeley at the time Mark was an undergraduate there. They both attended Mark's funeral service.

For the few years that I was a peripheral part of his life, it appeared to me that Mark had many friends who cared about him. I recall going to his small apartment on Dwight Way for the scheduled attendant work, and when I opened the door I stepped into a lively theological discussion between Mark and his friends. His friends stood around his iron lung speaking with utmost seriousness whereas Mark was smiling, almost laughing, at what he was hearing and observing. It seemed that he always had someone to talk to; he wasn't as isolated as he often imagined himself to be. He would carry on a conversation without any self-pity about his condition and with genuine interest in the subject matter and what the other person had to say. He was bright and erudite.

The Sessions has triggered many memories I have of Mark. I remember how frustrating it was to tighten the collar around him with the correct degree of tension in order for him to breathe properly inside the iron lung. I usually had to try it a few times before I finally got it to his satisfaction. When I was done Mark made certain I placed a little teddy bear or maybe it was a koala bear around one of the collar's wing nuts. The bear needed to be visible to Mark, looking at him like a watchful companion.

When I read Mark's article "On Seeing a Sex Surrogate," I wanted to go to his place and tell him that finding a lover is difficult for many people, if not most, who are not (at least outwardly) disabled. I never did. This is one of my lasting regrets in life. His article is a sobering account of how his self-esteem was briefly elevated by those sessions, before plummeting back down: "But my life hasn't changed. I continue to be isolated, partly because of my polio, which forces me to spend five or six days a week in an iron lung, and partly because of my personality. I am low-key, withdrawn and cerebral."

But it did change. He met Susan, someone who was his loving companion during the final years of his life. They were married. Finding love like this is the best any of us can do.

Michael Palmer, Berkeley

People's Community Market's Plans

Produce Pro and Mandela Foods Cooperative are good stores. But West Oakland is still very underserved — by about 70 percent of its annual grocery demand — even with these stores in operation. West Oakland needs and can support multiple stores that have their own unique offerings and approaches and that create local jobs. People's Community Market won't be exactly like either of these two stores.

Learn more: PeoplesCommunityMarket.com

Brahm Ahmadi
CEO/President, People's Community Market

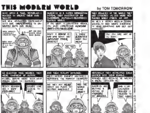
In Defense of Aki

I don't know how anybody could refer to Aki as a Sushi Nazi given how humble he is. He might politely explain things, or explain why things are not done, but he is not the "no sushi for you!" type by any means. I remember one time when a customer asked for suggestions, and then told Aki that he could put his [suggested item] where the sun don't shine. Aki smiled and asked if he could suggest something else.

Wayne Reznick, Union City

Corrections

Our 11/7 feature "The Immortality Machine" got wrong the year Randal Koene was born; it was 1971. We also got wrong the year Koene cofounded CarbonCopies.org; it was 2010. ●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by TOM TOMORROW
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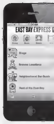

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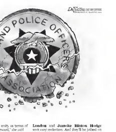
EAST BAY EXPRESS

SEVEN DAYS

THE END OF AN ERA

Following last week's election, the Oakland police union and the Perata political machine no longer control Oakland politics.

Robert Gammon



For the past few decades, the Oakland police union has exerted substantial influence over City Hall. Politicians have traditionally been afraid to oppose the union for fear of political payback at election time. But with the defeat of three police-union backed candidates in last week's election, including Councilmembers **Ignacio De La Fuente** and **Jane Brunner**, the union's power in Oakland politics is now greatly diminished.

The police union spent heavily during the campaign on behalf of De La Fuente and Brunner, but they were trounced by Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan** and City Attorney **Barbara Parker**, respectively. Kaplan whipped De La Fuente by 21 percentage points in the Oakland At-Large council race, 61.2 percent to 38.8 percent. And Parker destroyed Brunner in the city attorney contest by more than 37 points, 68.5 percent to 31.1 percent. The lopsided defeats for De La Fuente and Brunner represented perhaps the two worst political beatings for the police union in its history. Oakland politicians, in short, should never again be afraid of the Oakland Police Officers' Association.

Likewise, the De La Fuente and Brunner losses represented the final nail in the coffin for the once-mighty political machine run by longtime state Senator **Don Perata**. De La Fuente has long been Perata's close friend and political ally, and the machine used to control Oakland politics through fear, intimidation, and big-money campaigns. The machine had been on the wane since Perata lost the 2010 mayor's race to **Jean Quan**. De La Fuente and Brunner were the last members of the machine in Oakland politics, and their exit from City Hall this December effectively means that the machine will finally be dead. The last vestige of the once-powerful political network is Councilman **Larry Reid**, who often voted with De La Fuente and Brunner but was never really a member of Perata's camp.

De La Fuente and Brunner are also leaving office under a cloud of shame. At one time, both had respectable records as Oakland city councilmembers. But they badly tarnished their legacies this fall with intensely negative campaigns against Kaplan and Brunner that grossly distorted their records in office. And when voters soundly rejected the nastiness last week, they also perhaps sent a strong message to political candidates who may think about going negative in the future.

"The divisive and deceptive campaigns lost — and they lost by a big margin," Kaplan noted. Kaplan also said she believes that De La Fuente and Brunner's departure will go a long ways toward ending the rancor that has plagued the council over the years. "I think we're going to see a lot of unity in terms of personal dynamics going forward," she said.

Both De La Fuente and Brunner have long been known for carrying grudges, and several City Hall insiders said over the past few weeks that they expected De La Fuente and Brunner — if they had won — to exact revenge against people and organizations that did not endorse them or had supported Kaplan and Parker. The only councilmember to endorse De La Fuente and Brunner was **Desley Brooks**. Although Brooks has clashed for years with many of her council colleagues, she'll now be in the minority on the panel with De La Fuente and Brunner gone.

Also, council President Reid, who won leadership of the council with the backing of De La Fuente and Brooks, is unlikely to maintain that position after the swearing-in ceremony of new councilmembers this January. With the three new councilmembers coming on board, I expect the council presidency to go to **Pat Kernighan**, **Libby Schaaf**, or Kaplan, who often vote together on issues.

And in the years to come, it'll be interesting to see whether any local candidates decide to hire the architect of the negative De La Fuente and Brunner campaigns — Oakland political operative **Larry Tramutola**. Tramutola, who had also been Perata's campaign manager, also engineered the series of false and misleading attacks financed by the police union this year against Kaplan and Parker.

Finally, De La Fuente displayed a lack of class last week when he refused to concede defeat to Kaplan and congratulate her for her hard-fought victory — even though he was down by more than twenty points and it was virtually impossible for him to win.

Oakland Wrap

Other Oakland City Council winners included **Dan Kalb** in District 1, North Oakland; **Lynette Gibson McElhaney** in District 3, West Oakland-Downtown; **Noel Gallo** in council District 5, Fruitvale-Glenview; and Reid in District 7, East Oakland.

In school board races, incumbents **Jody London** and **Jumoke Hinton Hodge** won easy reelection. And they'll be joined on the board by newcomers **Rosie Torres** and **James Harris**. Measure J, the Oakland schools infrastructure bond, won handily, garnering 83.8 percent of the vote. It needed 55 percent to pass. (See page nine for complete results.)

Berkeley Wrap

Mayor **Tom Bates** easily won reelection, as did city council members **Darryl Moore**, **Laurie Capitelli**, **Max Anderson**, and **Susan Wengraf**. Of Berkeley's ballot measures, Measures M and R won, while Measures U and V lost. Measure S, the sit-lie ordinance, also lost in a tight contest, while Measure T (West Berkeley development) was still too close to call as of early Tuesday.

Elsewhere

Measure A1, the Oakland Zoo tax measure, failed to garner the 66.67 percent needed by about five percentage points. Measure B1, the transportation tax, was still too close to call, as of early Tuesday; it was less than one point short of the 66.67 percent needed.

In the state Assembly 18th District contest, **Rob Bonta** defeated **Abel Guillen** in a close contest, while **Bill Quirk** held a narrow lead over **Jennifer Ong** in a race that was still too close to call.

With Bonta's victory, the Alameda City Council will add three new members: **Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft**, **Tony Daysog**, and **Stewart Chen**. And in the Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 2 race, appointed incumbent **Richard Valle** finished first, ahead of **Mark Green** and **Mary Hayashi**.

In Richmond, Measure N, the Soda Tax, was easily defeated, while **Nat Bates**, **Tom Butt**, and **Gregory Beil** led in a city council contest that was still too close to call. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

COLORADO AND WASHINGTON LEGALIZATION EXPLAINED

Organizers talk federal reaction, the immediate effects of the new laws, and cannabis tourism

By David Downs

Last week, voters in Colorado and Washington overturned 75 years of marijuana prohibition in historic decisions that will reverberate through American society and the world for weeks, months, and years to come. President Obama's reelection may have consumed last week's news cycle, but he returns to mouth the status quo in Washington, DC. The legalization of pot, on the other hand, is like two hydrogen bombs going off deep inside a fault line of America's legal landscape: barely felt at the surface, yet capable of triggering a tectonic shift in policy. We phoned organizers of Washington's Initiative 502 and Colorado's Amendment 64 to walk us through the immediate effects.

Washington

What did Washington just pass?

According to New Approach Washington outreach director Tonia Winchester, Washingtonians passed an amendment to their state constitution. Starting December 6, it is no longer a crime for adults 21 and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana for personal use. Smoking in public and in private non-smoking locations remains prohibited. A new marijuana DUI standard will operate like Washington's alcohol DUI standard, with the limit set to five nanograms of active THC per milliliter of blood. No home-growing, however, is allowed.

Next year, licensed Washington farmers will be allowed to grow weed and sell it at pot stores operated by private Washington businesses and regulated by the state. Advertising and store locations are subject to restrictions to minimize exposure to those under 21.

What about the feds?

I-502 repeals some Washington state marijuana laws, but does not affect federal law. A federal agent could still arrest Washington residents for possessing or using pot in their homes. But in practice, the feds are focused on people trafficking large amounts of drugs, and a DEA agent is unlikely to arrest grandma for smoking a joint.

Can the feds sue to stop the state licensing system? Doesn't federal law trump state law?

It depends. Federal law preempts state law if there is a "positive conflict" between the two, meaning state law "requires" someone to break federal law. I-502 does not "require" anyone to do anything that violates federal law. It removes some state marijuana crimes and calls for a statewide system to license the private industry.

Couldn't the feds attack that regulatory system?

They could, but it's unclear whether they would prevail. Winchester said she hopes they won't. "We're hopeful we can have a dialogue," she said. "We're very optimistic this can be a collaborative conversation."

Why wouldn't the feds just try to overturn Washington's regulations?

If the feds succeed in dismantling the state's regulatory structure, the feds would have to own the ensuing chaos. It would be pretty bad politics.

What about tourism?

As of December 6, all adults 21 and older will be allowed to possess up to an ounce of marijuana and smoke it. You can be from Washington, California, or Timbuktu — it doesn't matter. But you probably will want to wait a year or two until some stores open.

Colorado

What did Colorado just pass?

Amendment 64 campaign co-director Mason Tvert said state voters passed a constitutional amendment removing all legal penalties for personal possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, and for home-growing up to six marijuana plants in an enclosed, locked space, for adults 21 and older.

Amendment 64 directs the Colorado Department of Revenue to license private cannabis cultivators, distributors, stores, and testing facilities. The initiative does not change existing laws regarding driving under the influence of marijuana, nor does it change the ability of employers to fire stoners.

Can't the feds sue to stop A64 from being implemented?

Like Washington, Colorado can't be made to enforce federal drug law. The feds could try to dismantle the state's regulatory structure, however. The feds could file suit and argue that federal law "preempts" such a system. It's unclear who would win.

It should be noted that Colorado (and other states and cities) already license and tax pot under a medical marijuana system. The feds have not challenged it, Tvert said. His group hopes to avoid a suit through ongoing discussion with federal and state officials. "The federal government hasn't interfered, they don't have to interfere, and we hope they won't interfere," Tvert said.

Can I smoke a joint there now? What about tourism?

The measure becomes effective by proclamation of the governor upon official declaration of the vote. That should happen by January 1, Tvert said. Cannabis tourists might want to wait a couple years, though. Even if it's legal to smoke, there's nowhere to buy it without a medical marijuana card. Cards are for state residents only and take a while to obtain.

What's the timeline for this?

By July 1, 2013, the Department of Revenue must adopt regulations for implementing Amendment 64. By October 1, 2013, towns and cities must begin accepting store license applications. Licenses must be approved or rejected within ninety days. The legislature has until 2014 to pass laws governing the growth and sale of hemp. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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ECO WATCH

OYSTER FARM STILL ILLEGAL

State regulators say an oyster farm at Point Reyes National Seashore is running afoul of environmental laws

By Robert Gammon

Ken Salazar, the US Interior Secretary, is expected to make a decision soon on whether to move forward with the creation of the first marine wilderness on the West Coast — or take the unprecedented step of delaying it for at least ten years so that an oyster farm can keep operating. The farm's federal lease in Drakes Estero at Point Reyes National Seashore is scheduled to expire on November 30. But as that date approaches, the farm, Drakes Bay Oyster Company (DBOC), is once again in hot water with state regulators.

In a strongly worded enforcement letter sent late last month, the California Coastal Commission, which has jurisdiction over some of the oyster farm's operations, warned DBOC that it intends to commence official proceedings against it for repeated violations of state law. The commission has the power to levy steep fines against the oyster farm; it fined DBOC $61,500 for illegal activities in 2009.

Over the years, DBOC officials and their supporters have portrayed the oyster farm as an eco-friendly business. And they have argued that Secretary Salazar should extend DBOC's federal permit — and thus delay the creation of the marine wilderness — because they say the oyster farm is a sustainably run operation.

But state records show that DBOC has flouted California environmental laws. The Coastal Commission's October 24 letter noted that the oyster farm has been operating without the required state permits since 2007. "As you know, your facility remains unpermitted under the Coastal Act," wrote Charles Lester, executive director of the Coastal Commission, addressing DBOC's owner, Kevin Lunny.

Lester also noted that the oyster farm has been illegally operating boats in protected areas of Drakes Estero, has abandoned plastic materials that it uses in its farming operations, and has illegally dug a long electrical trench.

Lunny has repeatedly failed to heed the commission's warnings. In an interview earlier this year, he contended that state regulators have been persecuting him. Commission officials strongly deny that charge. "The reality is: He still doesn't have any permits," commission spokeswoman Sarah Christie said in a June interview. "Not only have we not persecuted him, we've been more than fair."

Amy Trainer, executive director of The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, said the commission's letter provides further proof that DBOC is not what it claims to be. "This is what the company [DBOC] calls environmental stewardship — it's a joke."

The commission plans to begin cease-and-desist proceedings in December, although that could change if Salazar decides to not extend the oyster farm's lease. ●

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ELECTION 2012

THE FINAL TALLY

Here are the election results as of November 12 for the 2012 East Bay races that we've been following.

Oakland

City Council At Large (Ranked-choice voting)
Rebecca Kaplan: 71,038 (61.15%)
Ignacio De La Fuente: 45,133 (38.85%)

Rebecca Kaplan

City Attorney
Barbara Parker: 79,825 (68.52%)
Jane Brunner: 36,218 (31.09%)

Council District 1 (RCV)
Dan Kalb: 11,378 (51.97%)
Amy Lemley: 10,574 (48.03%)

Council District 3 (RCV)
Lynette Gibson McElhaney: 8,243 (53.33%)
Sean Sullivan: 7,215 (46.67%)

Council District 5 (RCV)
Noel Gallo: 5,098 (55.35%)
Mario Juarez: 4,113 (44.65%)

Council District 7
Larry Reid: 7,686 (58.90%)
Sheryl Walton: 4,074 (31.22%)

School Board District 1
Jody London: 18,716 (76.33%)
Thearse Pecot: 5,602 (23.35%)

School Board District 3 (RCV)
Jumoke Hinton Hodge: 10,348 (61.26%)
Richard Fuentes: 6,545 (38.74%)

School Board District 5
Rosie Torres: 5,273 (54.70%)
Mike Hutchinson: 4,329 (44.91%)

School Board District 7
James Harris: 6,874 (56.69%)
Alice Spearman: 5,182 (42.73%)

Measure J (Needed 55%)
Yes: 110,908 (83.80%)
No: 21,434 (16.20%)

Berkeley

Mayor
Tom Bates: 26,912 (54.89%)
Kriss Worthington: 10,601 (21.62%)
Jacquelyn McCormick: 5,640 (11.50%)

Council District 2
Darryl Moore: 3,166 (59.28%)
Denisha DeLane: 1,493 (27.95%)

Council District 3
Max Anderson: 2,946 (61.35%)
Dmitri Belser: 1,843 (38.38%)

Council District 5
Laurie Capitelli: 4,170 (54.59%)
Sophie Hahn: 3,453 (45.20%)

Measure M (Needed 66.67%)
Yes: 35,409 (72.98%)
No: 13,113 (27.02%)

Measure N (Needed 66.67%)
Yes: 29,620 (61.23%)
No: 17,976 (37.77%)

Measure O (Needed 66.67%)
Yes: 28,228 (59.87%)
No: 18,924 (40.13%)

Measure R
Yes: 29,835 (65.83%)
No: 15,480 (34.17%)

Measure S
Yes: 24,170 (48.31%)
No: 25,857 (51.69%)

Measure T*
Yes: 23,256 (49.50%)
No: 23,728 (50.50%)

Measure U
Yes: 9,665 (22.74%)
No: 32,801 (77.26%)

Measure V
Yes: 15,992 (37.96%)
No: 26,132 (62.04%)

Alameda

City Council (Top 3 win)
Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft: 11,762 (25.13%)
Tony Daysog: 8,396 (17.94%)
Stewart Chen: 8,178 (17.47%)
Jeff Cambra: 7,315 (15.63%)
Jane Sullwold: 5,947 (12.70%)

Jody London

Measure D
Yes: 22,297 (79.34%)
No: 5,807 (20.66%)

Albany

City Council (Top 3 win)*
Peggy Thomsen: 3,976 (22.04%)
Peter Maass: 3,094 (17.15%)
Michael Barnes: 2,904 (16.10%)
Nick Pilch: 2,851 (15.80%)
Ted Abbott: 2,489 (13.80%)

San Leandro

City Council District 2 (RCV)*
Ursula Reed: 11,060 (50.93%)
Morgan Mack-Rose: 10,654 (49.07%)

District 4 (RCV)
Benny Lee: 11,778 (60.99%)
Chris Crow: 7,534 (39.01%)

District 6
Jim Prola: 11,887 (55.58%)
Hermy Almonte: 9,400 (43.95%)

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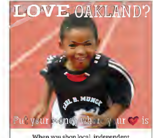
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Alameda County

Board of Supervisors District 2
Richard Valle 27,684 (36.48%)
Mark Green 23,135 (30.48%)
Mary Hayashi 18,231 (24.02%)

Measure A1 (Needed 66.67%)
Yes: 316,752 (62.31%)
No: 191,582 (37.69%)

Measure B1 (Needed 66.67%)*
Yes: 326,276 (65.83%)
No: 169,334 (34.17%)

Peralta Community Colleges

Trustee Area 2
Meredith Clayne Brown 8,357 (41.47%)
Jurena Storm 7,726 (38.33%)

Richmond

City Council (Top 3 win)*
Nat Bates 10,972 (17.91%)
Tom Butt 9,576 (15.63%)
Gregory Bell 9,297 (15.17%)
Eduardo Martinez 8,669 (14.15%)
Marilyn Langlois 6,883 (11.23%)

Measure N
Yes: 8,397 (33.09%)
No: 16,983 (66.91%)

Assembly

Rob Bonta

15th District
Nancy Skinner 146,244 (86.9%)
Eugene Ruyle 22,080 (13.1%)

16th District
Joan Buchanan 109,727 (58.8%)
Al Phillips 76,984 (41.2%)

18th District
Rob Bonta 70,745 (51.5%)
Abel Guillen 67,716 (48.5%)

20th District*
Bill Quirk 64,027 (50.6%)
Jennifer Ong 62,465 (49.4%)

Senate

7th District
Mark DeSaulnier 191,347 (60.6%)
Mark Meuser 124,148 (39.4%)

9th District
Loni Hancock 270,946 (85.9%)
Mary Catherine McElroy 44,438 (14.1%)

AC Transit

At-Large
Chris Peeples 222,607 (62.2%)
Dollene Jones 138,331 (38.0%)

Ward 1
Joel Wallace 36,370 (54.1%)
Yelda Bartlett 30,515 (45.4%)

BART

District 3
Rebecca Saltzman 65,756 (53.0%)
Anthony Pegram 38,731 (31.2%)

District 7*
Zakhary Mallett 31,264 (35.6%)
Lynette Sweet 28,495 (32.1%)

State Propositions

Prop 30
Yes: 54.1%
No: 45.9%

Prop 31
Yes: 39.3%
No: 60.7%

Prop 32
Yes: 43.8%
No: 56.2%

Prop 33
Yes: 45.4%
No: 54.6%

Prop 34
Yes: 47.3%
No: 52.7%

Prop 35
Yes: 81.2%
No: 18.8%

Prop 36
Yes: 68.7%
No: 31.3%

Prop 37
Yes: 47.1%
No: 52.9%

Prop 38
Yes: 27.7%
No: 72.3%

Prop 39
Yes: 60.3%
No: 39.7%

Prop 40
Yes: 71.9%
No: 28.1%

Congress

Eric Swalwell

11th District
George Miller 161,621 (69.2%)
Virginia Fuller 71,934 (30.8%)

13th District
Barbara Lee 231,528 (86.5%)
Marilyn Singleton 36,057 (13.5%)

15th District
Eric Swalwell 123,889 (52.4%)
Pete Stark 103,489 (47.6%)

* Too close to call

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

The Oakland Police Department can't lower the city's crime rate, because it doesn't catch criminals. By Ali Winston

Samier Ayesh was shot to death outside the East Oakland Dollar & More convenience store on June 10, 2010. Earlier that evening, Samier Ayesh and his brothers Wiliam, Awad and Samey were getting ready to close their family-owned store for the night when they saw two boys tagging the Ayeshes' white truck in an adjacent parking lot. The Ayesh brothers caught the boys and roughed them up, spraying both of them with paint using the boys' aerosol can.

The boys ran two blocks to the younger boy's house where a party was taking place, and told the adults gathered there what had occurred. Several of the men, upset at what the boys told them, drove to the store and confronted the four Ayesh brothers. One or more of the men then opened fire, killing Samier Ayesh.

After a nine-month investigation, the Oakland Police Department arrested and charged Evaristo Toscano and Hector Vilchis with the murder of Samier Ayesh. Police Sergeant Sean Fleming, a former prison guard who joined OPD in 1999 and has worked as an investigator since 2006, was the lead detective. The case that Sergeant Fleming delivered to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office was much like other homicide cases that OPD brings to the DA. It included no forensic evidence. No DNA. No fingerprint analysis. And no weapon to match the 0.32 caliber casings recovered from the street and the corresponding bullets embedded in Ayesh's body.

The Ayesh murder case exemplified the Oakland Police Department's numerous investigative shortcomings. Forget what you've seen on *CSI*. In Oakland, cases aren't solved by highly trained lab geeks who uncover that single strand of fiber that solves a murder case. Instead, OPD often bases its cases — as it did in the case against Toscano and Vilchis — solely on eyewitness identifications.

And even that evidence in the Ayesh murder case was deeply flawed. During a criminal trial in front of Alameda County Superior Court Judge Vern Nakahara last month, Sergeant Fleming admitted in court that he had lost the audio-visual recording of a key interview with the Ayesh brothers and two key photo lineups that included one of the defendants. Fleming, who made $322,591 in total taxpayer compensation in fiscal year 2010-11, admitted in court that he had failed to file copies of the interview recording and the photo lineups with OPD's property section as required by department policy. He attempted to explain his mistakes by citing the 35 or 40 open homicide cases that he was handling.

On the afternoon of November 6, an Alameda County jury convicted Toscano of second-degree murder but the jury hung 10-2 to acquit on all charges against Vilchis — the defendant whose guilt was cast into doubt by the missing interview recording and photo lineups.

Sergeant Fleming's errors in the Toscano-Vilchis case, along with the department's ongoing failure to gather forensic evidence and properly analyze the evidence it does collect, are representative of OPD's deep-rooted institutional dysfunction. In a city where police officers consume more than 40 percent of the municipal budget, are among the city's highest-paid employees, and have exerted an outsized influence on Oakland politics, the department's ability to perform its core missions — solve violent crime, catch criminals, and keep the public safe — is highly questionable.

As of late last week, there had been 108 killings in Oakland in 2012, none of which were called "justifiable homicides," such as the May 6 officer-involved shooting of teenager Alan Blueford by OPD Officer Miguel Masso. In the past five years, Oakland has recorded more than one hundred homicides annually, with 2010 being the sole exception.

But perhaps the most telling statistic is OPD's solve rate — known in criminal justice circles as the clearance rate — for homicides. According to the department's Criminal Investigations Division's annual management report, OPD investigators solved and prosecuted just 32 of the 110 homicide cases of 2011, or a clearance rate of 29 percent. Similarly, OPD posted a 30 percent clearance rate in 2010 when investigators sent 27 of the 90 murders that year to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for prosecution. This is a decrease from 2009's clearance rate of 43 percent, when OPD investigators arrested and prosecuted individuals in 47 of the 109 homicides that year.

"People are literally free to kill again if they want," said Eugene O'Donnell, a professor of criminology at the City University of New York-John Jay and a former NYPD lieutenant, after being told about OPD's low clearance rate for homicides. "There's nothing more undermining to a community's sense of order," he added, referring to how Oakland's high number of unsolved murders contributes to the distrust of police prevalent in the city's impoverished neighborhoods, already heightened by the Riders scandal and recent officer-involved shootings.

By comparison, the San Francisco Police Department's homicide unit posted a 52 percent clearance rate in 2011 and a 64 percent clearance rate for this year to date. The California Department of Justice's report on 2010 homicides put the statewide clearance rate for homicides at 63.8 percent for that year.

OPD's inability to solve crimes is due in part to understaffing. And that problem, in turn, has been worsened by Oakland's fiscal crisis during the Great Recession and by a police budget that has been distorted over the past decade by overly generous contracts with the police union that not only included excessive pay, but also unaffordable pension benefits. OPD now has fewer than 630 sworn officers, down from more than 800 in January 2009. As a result, Oakland has far fewer cops than similar-size cities with high crime rates, yet spends as much as those cities or more on policing per capita because of the generous compensation packages given to officers.

The city council and the mayor have funded two police academies that will put forty more officers on the street by January 2013 and another forty by next July, but OPD loses roughly sixty officers every year to retirements,

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disability, lateral transfers, and terminations. Mayor Jean Quan and City Administrator Deanna Santana's forthcoming Five-Year Financial Plan for the city will recommend allocating funds to guarantee two academies every fiscal year for the next half decade. But given the current salary package — officers earn roughly $80,000 in starting salary, plus benefits, pension payments, and overtime — cash-strapped Oakland cannot afford to hire enough officers to get back to 2009 staffing levels without a complete turnaround of the local economy, higher taxes on city residents, gutting other vital municipal services, or rewriting the police union's contract.

During the past year, there has been much focus on whether US District Judge Thelton Henderson will place OPD under control of a court-appointed special receiver as a result of the department's failure to comply with decade-long reform efforts stemming from The Riders scandal.

OPD's Internal Affairs investigations into misconduct allegations and the inability to track and deal with problem officers have been at the heart of the stagnated reform efforts. But the department's failure to lower Oakland's crime rate is due to a litany of factors that fall outside the confines of court oversight and have gone unaddressed by city leaders.

For example, field supervisors and line officers alike complain about a lack of strong leadership in OPD. They also complain about a reactive department culture that does not have the resources or the institutional support to conduct systematic investigations into violent crime. In addition, OPD's crime lab has not been a top priority of the department for at least a decade, despite repeated calls by the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury for a consolidated countywide crime lab. That proposal was rejected repeatedly by neighboring police departments earlier this fall, leaving Oakland with several years' worth of backlogged evidence and no long-term solution in sight.

Moreover, OPD's failure to quickly analyze forensic evidence, including fingerprints, DNA, and shell casings, has prompted homicide investigators to rely heavily on eyewitness identifications and statements and suspect confessions, all of which are coming under increasing scrutiny by national crime experts. According to The Innocence Project, false confessions played a major role in a quarter of the 301 convictions that have been overturned with DNA evidence nationwide since 1989.

The staffing shortage is a critical reason why OPD is fighting a Sisyphean battle against Oakland's crime rate. But the department's failure to solve violent crimes and meet even the most basic standards of contemporary policing contribute to the citizenry's plummeting level of confidence in their most highly-paid — and overworked — civil servants.

OPD's inability to effectively investigate and solve violent crime is due not only to the lack of funding and staff for its crime lab, but also because of the department's decision over the years to not focus on its clearance rates. In June, the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury noted that more than 1,000 sexual assault and homicide cases in Oakland had yet to be analyzed. More damningly, the grand jury heard testimony that the crime lab had 330 unsolved homicides and 650 unsolved sexual assaults where evidence "directly related to the crime" had yet to be tested.

Despite the Grand Jury's recommendation (for the second time since 2000) that Alameda County law enforcement should create a consolidated crime lab to make more resources available to law enforcement and help reduce Oakland's evidence backlog, the cards appear to be stacked against such a solution. "Without political support for consolidation and political leadership supporting the establishment of consistent and reliable funding, any endeavor to implement regional consolidation of crime lab services will remain an unfulfilled vision," Albany police Chief Mike McQuiston, the head of the Alameda County Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs Association, wrote in response to the Grand Jury's findings.

McQuiston acknowledged that the consolidation of crime labs in the county would be beneficial, but he rejected the Grand Jury's recommendation, saying the "costs would certainly be vast and prohibitive in the current financial environment." In short, the rest of Alameda County law enforcement does not see a fiscal or political imperative to assist residents of Oakland, the region's largest city and biggest economic engine, which is in the midst of a public safety crisis that shows no signs of abating.

At the same time, internal department documents indicate that OPD does not systematically submit firearms evidence to national databases, nor does it trace weapons back to their points of origin. A civilian contractor for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, who conducted trace work on seized weapons for OPD, was let go in August 2011 when federal funds for his position expired. Trace work on weapons is currently

Quan, Jordan, and Santana want two police academies annually for five years.

Al Watson

Captain Davis said Oakland homicide investigators average thirty open cases annually

Ali Winston

only submitted to the ATF on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, examinations of fingerprints found at crime scenes in Oakland decreased by 40 percent in 2011, and there is a backlog of 1,118 prints awaiting analysis by the crime lab. Similarly, there is a massive backlog of untested firearms evidence. At the end of 2011, OPD's crime lab had 1,871 such requests pending. Moreover, Criminalistics Division Manager Mary Gibbons stated in her March 1, 2012 annual report that she intended to eliminate all pending requests correlated to murder cases that were more than three years old.

Evidence backlogs also seriously hamper case work and place additional burdens on investigators to elicit *confessions* or secure eyewitness identifications of suspects to ensure charges stand up in open court.

The civil grand jury also criticized OPD's crime lab for the lack of a case-tracking database, as well as the city's constant reliance on grant funding to plug the budgetary holes. In mid-September, OPD received a $408,000 one-time federal grant from the US Department of Justice to hire two additional crime lab staffers specializing in forensic biology for 18 months. According to a report by Police Chief Howard Jordan, the two technicians would help reduce the crime lab's backlog by 170 cases and decrease the turnaround time on analyzing biological evidence to less than 100 days. However, OPD estimated that it needs thirteen more staffers and $1.3 million to fully staff the crime lab commensurate to the current workload.

According to Oakland police Captain Johnny Davis, who is in charge of the Criminal Investigations Division, homicide investigators are averaging thirty open cases annually, up from 13.7 five years ago. In 2008, the Chauncey Bailey Project found that homicide investigators in the rest of California's ten largest cities had an average annual caseload of five open murders. "It's very draining," Davis said of his investigators' workload. "It's not uncommon now for us to work a case for 48 hours straight."

OPD's homicide clearance rate fell from 41 percent in 2006-2007 to just 29 percent in 2011. Davis said the 2012 clearance rate on homicides is 40 percent, but the *Express* could not independently verify that figure.

Regardless, OPD's clearance rate is startlingly low in comparison to state and national rates, and results in far fewer arrests and prosecutions of homicide suspects. "It's pretty stark because these are people who get away with murder, literally," said O'Donnell, the former NYPD lieutenant and professor of criminology at the City of New York-John Jay. O'Donnell also added that homicide clearance rates are often overlooked as a key performance measure by elected officials, who are responsible for ensuring that the police are doing their jobs effectively.

The trial of Evaristo Toscano and Hector Vilchis for Samer Ayesh's murder represents the pitfalls of OPD's crime lab problems and lack of evidence gathering and analysis, and the department's over-reliance on eyewitness statements and identification. "Memory isn't mechanical, it isn't a videotape," explained David Faigman, a professor at UC Hastings College of the Law, noting the difference between forensic evidence and witness testimony.

Sergeant Fleming and his fellow investigators not only collected no forensic evidence from the Samer Ayesh crime scene, but they also did not find a firearm when they searched Toscano and Vilchis' separate residences. Both men were charged for murder based on a statement given by Awad Ayesh on March 2, 2011 where he said there were two men shooting at him and his brothers on the night of June 10, 2010. However, an audio recording of the gunshots from that night was captured by ShotSpotter, a gunshot location program used by OPD since 2006, and ShotSpotter recorded four shots, all of them the same caliber. The ShotSpotter evidence was not included in the case presented by prosecutor Aubrey James. Vilchis' attorney, Yolanda Huang, procured the gunshot detection data on her own and introduced it in court on October 23.

The Ayesh brothers gave statements to Fleming on three occasions, but provided no firm descriptions of the gunmen until their third statement. On March 2, 2011, police showed them two photo arrays of six individuals, including Vilchis. While looking at the arrays that included Vilchis — both of which were later lost by Sergeant Fleming — Awad Ayesh picked out two individuals who he believed could have been the heavyset Latino his brother Samey Ayesh said was firing at them. Vilchis, who was arrested on February 28, 2011 based on a statement by Evaristo Toscano that put

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November 13 Scott Mickelson (Pat Opie) + Tom Rhodes

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lian at the crime scene, was never identified positively by the Ayesh brothers until after they were shown his photo in a lineup in March. Then, after Fleming lost the photo lineups, the murder charges brought against Vilchis were based largely on the statement of Toscano that put Vilchis at the scene of the shooting.

When he took the witness stand during an October 1 evidentiary hearing, Fleming was asked by defense attorney Yolanda Huang why he didn't place the two photo lineups into the property section. "Normally — since I've been in homicide — what we normally do is everything gets placed in a case package," Fleming responded. "At that time I didn't place the photo lineups into property after I finished them. No reason, no."

Fleming's failure to submit the video recording of the August 6, 2010 interviews with the Ayesh brothers was also a violation of OPD's Bureau of Investigations Policy 080-4, which states that investigators must record video and audio interviews with all suspects. Per policy, one copy of the recording is to be kept in the case file, and another is to be filed into the property section at the end of the shift during which the interview was conducted.

When asked at the same hearing about an explanation for the missing video recording of an August 6, 2010 interview with the Ayesh brothers, Fleming replied that he didn't follow policy because he was pressed for time. "I have a high caseload, multiple cases I'm investigating at one time, and I just didn't make them at the proper time on that particular incident," Fleming told the court.

Fleming's case notes, which were signed by Captain Brian Medeiros, who was then a lieutenant in charge of homicide investigations at OPD, state that he submitted video recordings of the interviews to the property section on April 11, 2011. The notes do not elucidate which recordings were filed into evidence.

Ali Winston

OPD now only traces weapons to their origin on a case-by-case basis.

While there is no indication that Sergeant Fleming intentionally misplaced the photo arrays and the recording of the August 6, 2010 interview, experts say the absence of such evidence casts doubt on the underlying basis for charging a defendant. "If procedure breaks down completely, as it did during this case," said Hastings professor Faigman, "one would naturally be suspicious about whether the underlying witness statement is valid."

In order to plug the gaps created by chronic understaffing and the misallocation of resources, OPD has enlisted the aid of federal law enforcement to conduct long-term probes and operations targeting gang activity and firearms trafficking. These cases represent the best police work done by OPD, but would be impossible without federal assistance with wiretapping equipment, cash, additional staffing, and trace-evidence work on weapons. "These enforcement collaborations are essential for the Department due to OPD's fiscal restraints and insufficient staffing," read Chief Jordan's September 11, 2012 report to the Oakland City Council.

A combined operation in 2010 between OPD and federal law enforcement targeting weapons trafficking is one of the best examples of how federal assistance with staffing, technical expertise, and financial resources brings out the best in Oakland policing. In January 2010, Drug Enforcement Administration agents based in Oakland learned from an informant about a young West Oakland Norteño — Luis Cardenas-Morfin — who was making a name for himself in town by selling heroin, crystal methamphetamine, and guns.

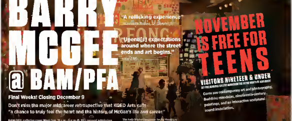
Then 21 years old, Cardenas-Morfin was already known to OPD for his part in the January 11, 2009 shooting of Abraham Gomez in front of Comalapa Restaurant on 7th and Chester streets. According to police reports, Cardenas-Morfin shot Gomez in the leg in front of the restaurant after calling Gomez a "scrap," a derogatory term used by Norteños for members of the rival Sureño gang. Gomez picked out Cardenas-Morfin as the shooter in a photo lineup shown to him by Officer Robert Trevino. Cardenas-Morfin pled guilty to the shooting and was sentenced to five years' probation.

The DEA opened an investigation into Cardenas-Morfin's activities and brought in Oakland Police Officer Eric Milina, a nineteen-year veteran who spent fifteen years in the city's Fruitvale district as a patrol officer and then with OPD's gang task force. On February 3, 2011, Milina was introduced to Cardenas-Morfin by a DEA-paid confidential informant. Milina and the DEA informant posed as mid-level dealers in drugs and firearms who were looking for a new supply line.

After the initial meeting, Milina met with Cardenas-Morfin several times. Using federal money, Milina worked his way up from deals for one or two ounces of crystal meth and heroin to purchasing firearms from the Norteño in so-called "controlled buys," which were recorded by DEA agents and OPD officers monitoring the transactions through hidden microphones.

In an interview, Officer Milina told me that he was struck by Cardenas-Morfin's efficiency, punctuality, and business-like approach to the deals. "He was organized, squared away, timely, which is unusual for drug dealers. He was level-headed and articulate," said Milina. "For a young man like that, if he'd put his energy into something good, he'd have been successful."

During the buys, Milina bought 19 ounces of high-purity crystal meth, two ounces of low-grade black tar heroin, and eighteen firearms from Cardenas-Morfin for $47,935, all of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OPD has a massive backlog of evidence that needs to be tested

Ali Winston/file photo

which came from federal anti-drug funds. The guns sold to the undercover officer included six semi-automatic pistols, two pistols, seven assault weapons (two AR-15s, two AK-47s, a Ruger mini-M14 rifle, a MAC-10 automatic pistol, and a 90-round drum magazine for the AR-15), and a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. "When he brought the guns in, he'd sell them pretty quick. I'm sure he had a pretty good profit margin on the weapons," said Milina.

Court documents detail Cardenas-Morfin telling Milina that he had two or three steady customers for firearms in San Francisco and Oakland. In one conversation with Milina, Cardenas-Morfin indicated that he had brought thirty firearms with him from his last trip out of state and already sold twenty of them. "It was an eye-opening experience to see how easy it is to buy high-caliber weapons and where the supply comes from," Milina told me.

Of the weapons Milina purchased from the Norteño, four were traced by ATF personnel to Nevada, one to Vermont, six to Arizona (including two AK-47 assault rifles), one to Georgia, and two to Southern California. "In Nevada, if you have a state-issued driver's license, you can show it to a vendor at a gun show and walk away with a weapon. And Reno's only four hours away," Milina noted.

However, OPD's ability to trace weapons was severely curtailed by the ATF's decision to cut the weapons-tracing contractor in 2011. "Now guns are traced on an individual basis — it's not systematic like it was with that ATF contractor," said Milina. The ATF contractor "was helpful; it was definitely an asset."

After being arrested, Cardenas-Morfin pled guilty to felony charges on December 22, 2011. The 23-year-old will remain incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Lompoc until August 2020.

Officer Milina acknowledged that the sting operation, for which he was awarded a departmental commendation, put only a small dent in Oakland's brisk traffic in illegal firearms. Noting the devastating impact that 7.62- and 0.223-millimeter rounds fired by the AR-15 and AK-47 rifles he purchased possess (both calibers are capable of ripping through dwellings and vehicles), Milina still believes his risky, months-long undercover stint had an impact. "Any time you can stop a gun supplier, it's worth it," he said. "Even if it stops one murder, saves one life, it's worth it."

The one aspect of OPD's troubled operations that made its way into the 2012 municipal elections was the dearth of police officers to patrol the city. Not counting cops on medical leave, assigned as community policing "problem solving officers," or tasked with patrolling near city schools, OPD has only 327 of the department's 627 officers to divide among its patrol division, criminal investigations, internal affairs, special operations, and training unit. As a result, several beats throughout the city are open, and response times to crimes are alarmingly high.

In 2009, officers responded to priority-one calls for service (i.e. incidents where a violent crime had just taken place or was still in progress) within 14.8 minutes on average, double the response times from comparable cities like Sacramento, Anaheim, San Francisco, and Fresno.

Short staffing and instability within OPD's command structure — there have been five police chiefs within the past thirteen years — along with priorities that appear to shift along with the political winds, have demoralized rank-and-file officers and made the department a less effective organization. An OPD supervisor who is still with the department said the command structure is not geared to proactively combat violent crime. "OPD is an entirely reactive agency," said the supervisor, who wished to remain anonymous. "Everything in this police department is political — what we do is entirely dependent on the lead [newspaper] headlines."

Following the layoffs of eighty cops in July 2010, then-Police Chief Anthony Batts decided to do away with several specialized units, including six Crime Reduction Teams, or CRTs, that were assigned to specific areas of the city with the task of investigating and reducing violent and drug-related crime. Each composed of six officers and one sergeant, CRTs were created in the mid-2000s.

Much of the work of the CRTs focused on gangs and aggressive, proactive policing. Police declarations filed in support of the city's two gang injunctions in North Oakland and Fruitvale included statements from several CRT officers about arrests and contacts with

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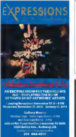
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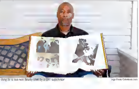

Gary King Sr.'s son was fatally shot by a CRT supervisor.

[illegible]

the individuals listed as active gang members.

CRT officers, however, were also at the heart of some of OPD's most controversial moments in the past decade: several traffic stops by CRT officers are included in a large civil rights lawsuit over a now-discontinued OPD policy permitting public strip searches. The September 20, 2007 officer-involved shooting of Gary King Jr. by Sergeant Patrick Gonzales was a result of the officer mistaking King for a murder suspect. Gonzales was the supervising sergeant for a North Oakland CRT at the time. In 2010, Oakland paid $1.5 million to the King family to settle a wrongful death lawsuit, making it the most expensive officer-involved shooting in the city's recent history.

Earlier this year, OPD reassigned 20 of 57 officers assigned to specific neighborhoods as "problem-solving officers (PSOs)," dividing them into two CRTs responsible for tackling violent crime in East and West Oakland. However, the transfer of PSOs who are intimately familiar with their beat has angered some residents of wealthier neighborhoods in the hills, which have experienced increases in property crimes and robberies.

Until the recent reintroduction of CRTs, OPD's gangs and guns task force of one sergeant and eight officers was the department's only unit dedicated to the proactive police work of long-term surveillance, intelligence gathering, parole searches, narcotics buys, and taking firearms off the streets. Formed in the mid-2000s as the Tactical Enforcement Task Force, it has an extremely heavy workload. In 2011, its members conducted 281 parole searches, 468 probation searches, 631 surveillance operations, and served 26 search warrants, resulting in 223 arrests. Of these, 31 arrests were of murder suspects, 20 were for robbery suspects, and 93 individuals were taken into custody for firearms-related offenses. In all, the task force seized 88 handguns, 18 rifles, and $79,304 in cash. For the year to date, OPD has seized more than 750 firearms.

But while the specialized task force produces numbers and arrests, its sheer workload detracts from its ability to engage in long-term investigations and build cases against organized street gangs. "They're not police, they're firemen," the current OPD supervisor said of the members of the gangs and guns task force and the reformed CRTs. "They're running from one end of the city to another. On Monday, they could be on a stakeout in East Oakland, the next day they're serving warrants in the West."

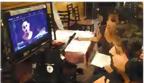
"Cops have lost faith in the command staff. Accountability stops at certain levels," said the current OPD supervisor. "If you have no leadership, we're gonna do whatever instinct tells us to do."

It's not clear what the future holds for OPD. Barring a dramatic turnaround in the economic fortunes of Oakland or California, it may be impossible to procure funding to fully staff the department at the current pay structure without stripping other core city services to the bone. The resistance of other Alameda County law enforcement to creating a consolidated crime lab leaves the city without a long-term solution to the massive evidentiary backlog. The doubts cast on the department's future by the impending receivership proceedings mean the command structure will be preoccupied by Judge Henderson's ruling until at least the beginning of 2013. What's more, the consent decree has never covered the troubled Criminal Investigations Division, and it remains unclear whether a federally appointed receiver would go beyond the current limits of reforms to address other problems rife within OPD.

The few bright spots that Oakland has concern the police department's collaboration with outside agencies. Federal assistance with long-term investigation appears to have become the norm — but it has yet to decrease the body count in Oakland's flatland neighborhoods. The much touted return of Project Ceasefire after a previous incarnation was derailed by the city's gang injunctions (see "Oakland's Other Gang Program," 10/5/11) is in its infancy, but will struggle if it does not provide meaningful employment to offer young men and women involved in the street life.

Experimental programs such as restorative justice have attracted attention in Oakland's public schools, but the city has yet to try alternatives to incarceration such as San Francisco's drug and neighborhood courts. The status quo is untenable. Young men and women, overwhelmingly black and Latino, are dying in droves, and OPD's ability to bring justice to the victims of crime is increasingly compromised by a financial house of cards and the same internal dysfunction that plunged it into federal oversight almost a decade ago. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com


Anthony Lucero [illegible] is being filmed entirely in Oakland. [illegible]

CULTURE SPY

EAST BAY SUSHI'S STARRING ROLE

A new independent movie filmed at Oakland sushi restaurants explores adversity in life and in the kitchen

By Jesse Hirsch

On the silver screen, Oakland is better known for cameo roles than for playing the lead.

In *Howard the Duck*, it was one of many glamorous filming locations, including Cleveland and Sacramento. Julia Roberts played a Fruitvale resident in *Dying Young*, earning Oakland some B-roll footage — most of the screen action happened in San Francisco. Most of *Basic Instinct* was filmed across the bridge, except when one of the leads catches a bullet in Oakland. Even *Moneyball*, everyone's favorite Oakland star vehicle, was mostly filmed in Culver City.

East Bay native son Anthony Lucero doesn't get it. He is now hip-deep in directing his first feature-length movie, an indie drama filmed entirely in Oakland, and he wonders where his predecessors are. "There are so many untapped resources here, so many cinematic locations that haven't been explored," said Lucero.

His movie, titled *East Side Sushi*, tells the story of a Latina single mother who leaves her family's fruit-vending business to work at a sushi restaurant. It's a timeworn tale of overcoming adversity, an exploration of prejudice in professional kitchens, and a buoyant celebration of sushi.

Lucero is a visual effects editor by trade, with movies like *Iron Man*, *Star Wars Episode 2* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* on his résumé. He started thinking about making his own movie more than five years ago, at a diner in Alameda.

He was watching a dishwasher at work, pondering the man's aspirations. Was he content with his lot in life? Did he hope to eventually become a cook, or maybe something bigger?

Like most kernels of inspiration, this one underwent some retooling on its way to being realized. The lead was initially going to be named Juan, giving the chance for a punny movie title: *Kanichi-Juan*. But Lucero realized the stakes would be higher if the hero was female (he changed the name to Juana).

He also decided not to set it in a high-end French restaurant — his original choice — because he felt like Japanese food was more "dynamic, beautiful, and cinematic." It's a debatable point, though any fan of the sushi chef documentary *Jiro Dreams of Sushi* knows how well sushi making can translate to the big screen.

Speaking of which: *Jiro* mania may prove to be a mixed bag for *East Side Sushi*. On one hand, the film wedded sushi and cinema in the popular consciousness, and demonstrated that an audience exists. But it was also a runaway cultural phenomenon, and Lucero fears that subsequent sushi movies may seem like cheap imitators.

"We don't want to seem like we're riding *Jiro*'s coattails," he said. "I'm afraid people are going to think we're just cashing in on something trendy."

A quick study of *East Side Sushi*'s plot shows it to be a very different type of movie. Sushi preparation plays a central role, but the overall narrative arc is more about character development than sushi as art form.

That's not to say you won't see any technical proficiency. Both of the leads — Diana Elizabeth Torres, who plays Juana, and Yutaka Takeuchi, who plays her mentor Aki — had to go through intensive sushi training in Torrance.

It's an intricate and delicate cuisine. For some of the trickier knife play, they brought in "stunt hands" — an experienced sushi chef whose handiwork will be used in close-up shots.

Lucero himself accrued a vast storehouse of sushi knowledge in preparation for the film. The Internet is a reliably handy resource, but several local chefs also schooled him.

Lucero made cold calls to various East Bay restaurants, assuring struggling English speakers that he wasn't with the health department. His goal was to ask a bunch of questions and shadow the chefs. Ultimately, Angel Fish and Kamakura in Alameda and Mijori in Oakland became his training grounds.

Mijori also ended up being one of his film locations, specifically a storeroom filled with rice and sundries. But most of the interior scenes are being filmed at Coach Sushi and B-Dama, on days when the respective restaurants are closed.

Using places with different interiors to represent the same restaurant can pose its challenges. For continuity, the crew shuttles a curtain back and forth between the two locations. When the characters walk through the curtain, they go from the front-of-house at Coach to the kitchen at B-Dama. "Pure movie magic," Lucero quips.

East Side Sushi uses lots of lo-fi film trickery bred of low-budget necessity. For instance, much of the fish is actually polyurethane, shot from wide angles. Outdoor shots of a Cinco de Mayo celebration are actually from this year's Día de los Muertos in Fruitvale (all face paint and marigolds will be edited out). And the interior shots for Juana's residence? Lucero's sister's house.

In fact, much of Lucero's family has pitched in to help with the movie. He's the youngest of seven siblings; he said they all recognize this is their brother's big chance. For instance, his brother Paul, a cook at Black Angus steakhouse, has been preparing most meals for the cast and crew.

Outside Lucero's family, *East Side Sushi* has been fueled by a lot of generosity. Coach and B-Dama both donated their space for filming, and local restaurants like Sabeban, Nacheeos, and Chop Bar have given free meals.

Not to mention at least half the crew is working for free, clocking twelve- to fourteen-hour shifts, six days a week. Lucero pulled most of the actors and crew from around the East Bay. Only the lead actors came from LA.

Casting calls were moved down to Southern California after no one suitable turned up in the Bay Area. "I was really bummed we couldn't find anyone locally," Lucero said, "but most serious actors don't stick around here. All the work is in LA."

The lead actors have now been crashing with Lucero's friends for several weeks. Takeuchi had been to San Francisco a few times before, but Torres hadn't even visited the area. Does she like it? Her answer is measured, in that she hasn't had much time to explore.

Torres said she spent weeks filming at Coach Sushi without knowing Lake Merritt was across the street. "I just saw the lake for the first time the other night. It was so beautiful all lit up," she said.

East Side Sushi will finish filming on November 20, followed by editing and shopping it around to national film festivals. If you want to help, you can make a donation on the film's website, EastSideSushiFilm.com. ●

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

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The March 1975 issue of *Bicycling* magazine featured the EBBC's "bicycle breakthrough" on the three-year-old BART system.

Seeking Biketopia

The East Bay Bicycle Coalition throws a party to honor the past and envision the future

The East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) was born in 1972, the same year BART first hit the tracks. Their shared birth year wasn't a coincidence, however: BART in essence spawned the EBBC by banning bikes entirely, galvanizing a nascent community of East Bay bike advocates around a common cause. Three years later, BART began allowing bikes onboard. "It was our first fight," said EBBC executive director Renee Rivera. "But it certainly wasn't our last."

Now, four decades later, with the East Bay fully steeped in bike culture, the Bike to Work Day advocates and pothole fighters at EBBC are still working to make the East Bay a safer and better community for cyclists. And on Friday, November 16, to celebrate the coalition's fortieth year, they'll transform the Jack London Square Pavilion (98 Broadway, Oakland) into their own personal bikers' utopia — Biketopia, in short.

"It's going to be our vision of the super bike-friendly city of the future," said Rivera. The organizers will create a mini streetscape inside the Pavilion, featuring colored bike lanes, parklets, and on-street bike parking. There will also be music, a silent auction featuring bike accessories, food from Jack London Square's own Miss Pearl's Restaurant and Lounge, and plenty of wine and New Belgium beer. "We don't advise biking around with a beer in your hands," said Rivera with a laugh. "This is more of a celebration of what we know the East Bay can someday be for bikers, in our future."

As far as modern-day models for the bike haven the EBBC envisions, Rivera looks no further than Berkeley. According to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2011, Berkeley has the nation's fourth-highest rate of bicycle commuting — at nearly 9 percent of the workforce — behind Boulder (9.6 percent), Palo Alto (10 percent), and Davis (16.6 percent). But Rivera seems confident that with the initiatives the EBBC is supporting, the rest of the East Bay isn't far behind. Among the organization's priorities are fighting for full bike access on BART and building support for the "East Bay Greenway," a network of bike paths from Oakland to Hayward inspired by Berkeley's Ohlone Greenway. "We have a really great example right next door of what a great biking city looks like," she said. "This is a chance for people to celebrate around all of us getting there." 5:30 p.m., $15-30. EBBC.org/biketopia

— Azeen Ghorayshi

ATTRACTIONS

Berkeley Architectural Heritage: Special Tour & Reception Part of the Julia Morgan 2012 Festival, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association presents a tour of houses designed for Berkeley Workshop, followed by a reception. Sat., Nov. 17, 12-4 p.m. $25.

Live Outdoor Art Party Watch local artists create original works, which are available for purchase after event. Third Friday of every month, 6 p.m. free. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8000, ActualCafe.com.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

50 Shades of Play Following the 50 Shades of Grey book craze, staff sexologist Dr. [illegible] will teach attendees [illegible], and more. Tue., Nov. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987, GoodVibes.com.

Acupuncture Clinic Anna Lundauer, L.Ac. MTCM, leads community healing group acupuncture sessions. [illegible] First and third Friday of every month, 12:30-1:30 p.m. $10-$30. Namaste Grand Lake, 3229 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-832-9642, NamasteGrandLake.com.

[illegible] Lubes and Jewel Good Vibes sex educators give attendees a tour of toys, lube, physiology, and satisfaction. Wed., Nov. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m., free. Good Vibrations Lakeshore, 3219 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-788-2580, GoodVibes.com.

East Bay Oakland Pain Group Call Bonnie Motley at 510-895-3270 or e-mail [illegible] for more information. First and third Tuesday of every month, 3-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Eat Better, Move More With healthy cooking demos, yoga, Qi Gong, Capoeira, and Zumba classes and nutrition consultations. Third Sunday of every month, 9:30 a.m. free. [illegible] PCRMA.com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Janet Stickmon Author and Professor Janet Stickmon reads from *Midnight Peaches, Two O'Clock Patience*, discussing the female body and the sexual freedom lens from motherhood. Fri., Nov. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. free. Good Vibrations Lakeshore, 3219 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-788-2580, GoodVibes.com.

Lower Back Stretch Class For ages 50 and up. Mat required for floor exercises. Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m., $3 suggested donation. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley. 510-981-5170.

Lube: Deciding What Works for You A workshop about the different personal lubricants on the market, and which will work best for you. Wed., Nov. 21, 7-7:30 p.m. free. Feelmore510, 1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-891-0109, Feelmore510.com.

Peer Counseling With confidential drop-in counseling with a talk therapy approach. Mondays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. free. 510-548-2570. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2570, BerkeleyFreeClinic.org.

Stress Relief Strategies for Busy Lives Learn breathing and relaxation techniques, get diet, exercise and sleep tips, and receive a free monthly calendar with healthy living strategies. Mon., Nov. 19, 2-3 p.m. free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

KIDS

Art Workshops with MOCHA Artists from the Museum of Children's Art present art workshops with different themes each week. Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812, OaklandLibrary.org.

Days of the Dead Family Activity Tour Craft works of art inspired by the exhibition *Forgotten Streets, Permanente Lost: Days of the Dead 2012*. Sun., Nov. 18, 12-3 p.m. free with museum admission. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

PICKS

fiveTEN LGBTQ Film Festival

East Bay LGBTQ organization fiveTEN made a name for itself during September's Oakland Pride, showing it knew how to throw a killer party. And on Thursday, Nov. 15, it broadens its scope to include some serious community-building thru its first annual LGBTQ Film Festival at the Grand Lake Theater (3200 Grand Ave., Oakland). The festival will feature nineteen films, including a long-form movie, a zombie short, a piece about food justice and other films addressing LGBTQ issues in the community. Afterward, head over to the Rock Steady (1742 San Pablo Ave., Oakland) to mingle with the filmmakers during the fest's official afterparty (ages 21 and up). 6 p.m. $8. 510OaklandPride.com. *— Azeen Ghorayshi*

Fran Lebowitz

The name Fran Lebowitz is synonymous with that particular brand of Manhattanite humor bound in perpetual dislike. For the past thirty years, her social criticisms have cut apart everything from celebrity culture to baby strollers, always managing to deliver some deep insight along the way. Now 62, Lebowitz is still as unapologetic as ever. On Thursday, Nov. 15, she'll make a rare Berkeley appearance at Zellerbach Hall (Bancroft Way and Dana St., UC Berkeley) as part of Cal Performances' "Strictly Speaking" series (Lebowitz once told David Letterman she would not move to San Francisco "unless there was a soldier behind me with a gun"). And if you don't mind potentially getting skewered, the event will be followed by an audience Q&A. 8 p.m. $20. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org. *—A.G.*

Family Movie Night View clips from *Planet Earth* alongside the Botanical plant display. Film and popcorn provided. Sat., Nov. 17, 5-6:30 p.m. $10. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

The Last Reef 3-D A thrilling underwater journey that allows you the beauty and mysteries of a reef ecosystem. Through Jan. 6, 2013. $4 after admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Glass Storytime [illegible] Sunday Storytime. Sun., Nov. 18, 11 a.m. free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

Parents' Night Out at Habitot Children's Museum Drop off kids aged 3-6 for a fun night at Habitot and enjoy a night out [illegible]. Sat., Nov. 17, 5:30-9:30 p.m., $35/child, $15/sibling. Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111, Habitot.org.

Workshop Storytime A reading event for preschoolers. First and third Wednesday of every month, 10:30 a.m., free. Rockridge Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Outer Junk 3-D Take a trip to outer space and learn more about the space junk and clutter in Earth's orbit. See the satellites that make modern life possible. Through Jan. 6, 2013. $4 after admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Thanksgiving Break ZooCamp One-day ZooCamp workshops featuring zoo tours, animal visits, crafts, games, songs, and lessons. Each day is different, so campers can attend one day or all week [illegible]. Pre-registration required. Mon., Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tue., Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Wed., Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. $55/day. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

Video Game Programming for Kids A class for kids ever age 10 to learn how to program. Create simple games, and other game development skills. [illegible] 10 a.m.-noon, free. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

The World's Funniest [illegible] The

Amazing Bubble Man, otherwise known as Louis Pearl, brings his bubble-filled, audience-participatory performance back to The Marsh. Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through Nov. 25. $8-$11. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible] TheMarsh.org.

More Listings Online
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LGBT

Butch-Stud Support Group A weekly drop-in peer support group for masculine-identified women (i.e. butch, studs, aggs, doms, etc.). Mondays, 7-9 p.m., free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

Lesbians of Color Support Group A drop-in peer group for lesbian women of color to discuss issues in a safe, communicative environment. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

"TRANS" As part of Transgender Day of Remembrance, [illegible] presents a screening of the award-winning film, *TRANS*, followed by a Q&A with cast members and director. Sun., Nov. 18, 3-6 p.m. $7.50. Bal Theatre, 14808 East 14th St., San Leandro. 510-614-1234.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Remembering [illegible] transgender advocate Brandy Martell, who was shot and killed on Sunday, April 29th, in downtown Oakland. Tue., Nov. 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m. free. Oakland Peace Center, 111 Fairmount Ave., Oakland. OaklandPeaceCenter.org.

Transgender Support Group A confidential discussion group for crossdressers, transgenders and other people with gender identity issues. Third Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. free. 925-691-0000. Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County, 3024 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. 925-692-0090, RainbowCC.org.

PETS

Dog Workshop A bonus adoption workshop by Hopalong Animal Rescue. Sat., Nov. 17, 12-3 p.m., free. Pet Food Express, Rockridge, 5144 Broadway, Oakland. 510-654-5888, PetFoodExpress.com.

East Bay SPCA Animal Adoptions With cats and dogs available for adoption. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. EastBaySPCA.org. Zachary's Chicago Pizza, 5801 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6385, Zacharys.com.

Feral Cat Foundation Adoptions With kittens/cats available for adoption. Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. FeralCatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 5258 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-873-0508, PetFoodExpress.com.

Free Dog Advice Thursdays Get advice on house training your puppy, grooming, [illegible] or knowing when you need to go to the vet. Leave your dog in your car until instructed otherwise. Consults are [illegible] to five minutes, or as time allows. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. free. Paws Collars, 2065 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-1278, PawsCollars.com.

[illegible] Greyhound Workshop With Greyhounds available for adoption. Third Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. GoldenGreyhounds.com. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2580 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-864-2222, PetFoodExpress.com.

Pet Loss Support Group A drop-in group for those preparing for or already grieving the loss of a pet. Third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. [illegible] Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-845-7735, BerkeleyHumane.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Angel Light Metaphysical Fair Tarot, angel, handwriting, crystal, and psychic readings. Chakra balancing and aura readings. Free reiki sessions and refreshments. Sun., Nov. 18, 1-6 p.m. $15. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-985-1800, AngelLightBooks.com.

Connecting the Dream A spiritually guided healing and support circle for parents of children with special needs. Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m., $10-$20. Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385, JuliesTea.com.

A Cup of Tea with Spirit With tea, [illegible] and chants. [illegible] Third Sunday of every month, 4-5 p.m. $5-$10. Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385, JuliesTea.com.

Dream A Parable By John PARKS Shanley, [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 15, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 17, 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 18, 2 p.m. $20. All Souls Episcopal Church, 2220 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-1755, www.allsoulsparish.org/

Dream Interpretation in Contemporary

Aldea Presented by Dr. Charles Fisher, who interviewed traditional Quiawag Ute-Illio Quiawag and political leaders who and draws interpretation to their work. Sat., Nov. 17, 1-4 p.m., $20. Breath Institute of Northern California, 1972 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-1287.

International Nativity Museum Hundreds selected nativities from the collection of Judy Davis. Through Jan. 6, 2013, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. 510-207-6330, CTLcathedral.org.

Kum Nye A drop-in class for all levels with techniques for relaxation, healing, relieving tension, and revitalizing body and mind. Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, $10. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812, Nyingma.org.

Public Dances With spiritual teacher Peter Deunov. First and third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., $10-$15. TheOpenDoorway.org. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-843-3227, HillsideClub.org.

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Alameda West End Flea Market Hand-crafted items, custom jewelry, locally made accessories, flowers, home decor and vintage and antique items. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., free. 510-359-1431, WestEndFleaMarket.com. College of Alameda, 555 Ralph Appezzato Memorial Pkwy., Alameda. 510-522-7221, Alameda.Peralta.edu.

Oakland Gift Drive Working with Operation Christmas Child to send shoe boxes of toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for needy kids overseas. Check drop-off boxes online at SamaritansPurse.org/occ. Through Nov. 19, 1-3 p.m., free. Chinese Independent Baptist Church, 280 8th St., Oakland.

Operation: Fork It A food drive, Oakland party concert, and dance party to benefit the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Fri., Nov. 16, 7 p.m.-midnight, $10 or 5 cans of food. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174, StorkClubOakland.com.

Rhythm Tap Hall of Fame Fundraising Mixer A fundraiser for Rhythm Tap Hall of Fame, a nonprofit that has provided after school programs and stage programs in Oakland for thirteen years. Fri., Nov. 16, 6-9 p.m. Baytide Center, 15658 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-552-6000, ShopBaytide.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Action Movie Mondays Mondays, 7 p.m., free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244, TheFiresideLounge.com.

Bicycle Bingo Staffy Star hosts a weekly bingo game, with prizes, to raise funds for various nonprofits. This week's game raises funds for Bike Alternatives. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., $3-$10. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8397, ActualCafe.com.

Cato's Trivia Night Quiz master Chuck B. hosts a group pub quiz with prizes. Mondays, 7:30 p.m., free. Cato's Ale House, 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349, MrCatos.com.

CodePINK Meet, Eat, & Greet Chance to meet fellow activists and eat organic or vegan food. Third Monday of every month, 7 p.m. CodePINK, 1348 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-524-2770, BayAreaCodePink.org.

HighSchool: Where Social Meets Science Explore the museum at night, with food, beer and wine available for purchase. 21+. Third Friday of every month, 7-11 p.m., $12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Oakland Ohmega A weekly yoga session accompanied by live music by local artists. Mondays, 9:30-8 p.m., $9-$15. OMYoga.com/ohmega. Studio Social Club, 2232 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

Pub Quiz Teams of two to five people compete for prizes. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m., free. The Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080, TheMissouriLounge.com.

Alameda Club Third and first Saturday of every month, 1-5:30 p.m., $3. It's Your Move Games and Hobbies, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4300, ItsYourMoveGames.com.

Trivia and beers Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244, TheFiresideLounge.com.

Womansong Circle A drop-in singing circle for women. Chabot sounds, simple harmonies, and improvisation. All voices welcome, no music reading skills needed. Fri., Nov. 16, 7 p.m., free. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Arroyo Viejo Creek Crew Clean-up Do some volunteer hours, learn more about nature and meet new friends while working at the Oakland Zoo Creek Restoration Site on Arroyo Viejo Creek. Sat., Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

Dragon Boat Racing Join the Alameda Dragon Flyers for free introductory dragon boating sessions. Equipment provided. Meets at 2400 Harbor Square Dr., Alameda. Saturdays, 8:45-11:30 a.m., free. 510-521-7555, AlamedaDragonFlyers.com.

Oakland Cycles Lake Chabot Night Ride Weekly off-road mountain bike rides followed by plans and beverages. Bicycle lights required. Riders of all skill levels welcome. Contact Devon@OaklandCycles.com or 510-478-3591 for more information. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley. 510-247-2526, EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

Hooping With hoopdancing for people of all ages. Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. LocalHooping.com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Members' Walk: Cycads Discover the Garden's cycad collection with Garden docent Meghan Ray. Members only. Thu., Nov. 15, 1-2:30 p.m., free. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Pickleball A fast-paced game combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. For all ages and experience levels. Played on the tennis courts. Sundays, 8-7:30 p.m., $3-$15, $2 paddle rental. 510-558-7259, AlbanyCA.org. Ocean View Field, 909 Buchanan St., Albany.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland Raiders vs. New Orleans Saints Sun., Nov. 18, 1:05 p.m., $45-$185. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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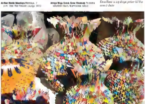

The Alameda West End Flea Market happens every Saturday

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
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"Jones is a fantastic singer, a masterful soul vocalist in the best tradition of Etta James, Bettye Lavette, and Irma Thomas." —PITCHFORK

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SAT NOV 24 8PM

Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings bring the gritty sounds of soul, funk, and gospel to Davies Symphony Hall! The eleven-piece Brooklyn-based band is known for their powerful on-stage performances and critically acclaimed recordings filled with infectious energy. Don't forget your dancing shoes!

The San Francisco Symphony does not appear on this concert.

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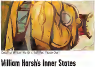

Detail of William Harsh's Achilles' Inside Out

William Harsh's Inner States

Vessel Gallery mounts a final retrospective of the admired expressionist painter.

Around the time William Harsh began painting, Pablo Picasso died. The old master left the young artist with, aside from a lifetime's worth of inspiration, one quip that would reverberate throughout his career: "The kind of painting I like is the kind you can drive a nail through."

Characteristically enigmatic, Picasso here meant that a painting should be structurally sound, its forms well distributed. However, he was also speaking about a certain relationship between painting and the world. However abstract the former might seem, you should still be able to nail it into the hard reality of the latter. "From the beginning," said Harsh in recent interview with his wife, "that was the kind of toughness in painting I was after."

A year and a half ago, Harsh, who had been living and working in Benicia since the mid-1980s, was diagnosed with cancer. A few months ago, facing the heartbreaking fact that the end was not far off, Harsh and his art dealer, Lonnie Lee, began preparing to mount a final retrospective. Now on view at Vessel Gallery, *Inside Out: A William Harsh Retrospective* presents a triumphant array of the artist's work from the early Nineties to the present — the period that Harsh considered to be his artistic maturity (and which began, not coincidentally, in the wake of seeing a 1990 exhibition of Picasso still-lifes in Paris).

Harsh's paintings themselves appear to be still lifes — piled jumbles of drawers, tables, chairs, easels, masks, fabric, and so forth. Rendered in sumptuous color and outlined in bold, ribbonlike black strokes, the depicted objects sometimes retain their character; other times they give way to abstraction, coalescing into what look like grand, bizarre architectural forms.

But while Harsh described his works as "impelled by" the immediate world of everyday objects, the sumptuous wreckage on his canvases is in fact an invention of imagination and memory. He never used models (a brilliant draftsman, he didn't need to), being above all interested in marrying "inner states" to the process of painting itself: the exigencies of flat canvas of fixed lateral proportions, smeared with drying oil paint. At a time when the medium seemed almost out of fashion, Harsh remained, thoroughly, a painter's painter. "Painting can express certain things that other media can't, and no doubt other media can express things that painting is too limited to do, but I am definitely a painter," said Harsh. "I have chosen to go deeply into that."

Unfortunately, Harsh would not live to see his final exhibition: he passed away the night his works left Benicia for installment. But with this rich retrospective now hanging, he is in every position to do as Picasso did for him: inspire other young artists, for whom there are certain things that can only be expressed in paint.

Inside Out: A William Harsh Retrospective runs through December 1 at Vessel Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland). 510-893-8800 or Vessel-Gallery.com

— Alex Bigman

ART GALLERIES

Addison/Nihil Window: Val Britton A satellite exhibit featuring mixed media works mapping the artist's physical, borrowed, and psychological and emotional spaces. Through Jan. 31, 2013. [illegible] St., Berkeley. Kala.org.

Ames Gallery: "Mostly Mende: Repaired and Repurposed" Paying tribute to the artistry and creativity shown by mending, as well as to the beauty of the [illegible]. [illegible], 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. Free. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949. AmesGallery.com.

Bedford Gallery: Captured: Specimens in Contemporary Art With works by 25 artists exploring the creative and [illegible] featuring of the intersection of art and science. Through Nov. 18. **Captured: Specimens in Contemporary Art** With works addressing the changing nature of our relationship with the natural world. Through Nov. 18. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Local Treasures: Bay Area Ceramics A retrospective of work by influential Bay Area ceramicists, including Clayton Bailey, Viola Frey, Ted Fullwood, Jon Ganeby, Mary Law, Annabeth Rosen, Nancy Selvin, Richard Shaw, Sandy Simon, John Toki, and Warren Zhang. Through Nov. 18. $3 suggested donation. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: The Art of Fumiyo Yoshikawa Bay Area artist Fumiyo Yoshikawa exhibits sumi-e and nihonga (traditional Japanese paintings). Artist's reception on Sunday, Nov. 11 at 2:30 p.m. Check online for library hours. Through Feb. 2, 2013. Free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Bridgehead Studios: Interior Voices A gallery showing of art by area twenty veterans. Through Dec. 7. 6-9 p.m. Free. 2516 Blanding Ave., Alameda. (510) 523-3408. BridgeheadStudios.com.

Bullseye Gallery: This Fragile This Explores forms of the human form in kilnformed glass. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. Free. 4514 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-595-1318. BullseyeGlass.com.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: Rebuilding With large-scale pastel drawings by Donna Anderson Kam. Through Nov. 29. Free. **Ghost** Featuring oil paintings by Holly Williams. Through Nov. 28. Free. **Donna Anderson Kam** Part of Recology San Francisco's Artist in Residence program. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Nov. 29. Free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

CK Gallery: Transformation Saturdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 2-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. 6029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-759-2635. CKGallery.org.

The Compound Gallery & Studios: Songs in the Key of Life and Death Art inspired by the vinyl record. Opening reception Nov. 10, 6-9pm. Thursdays-Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Nov. 16. Free. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. TheCompoundGallery.com.

David Brower Center: Before California With illustrations, sketches, and murals by Laura Cunningham, exploring what California was like centuries ago. Through Jan. 31, 2013. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

Interface Gallery: Food Stuff Works by Santa Cuen, Permaculture Institute, Cynthia Hooper, Kathleen Quillian, Chris Bindon, and Arjan Van Slyke explore the social, environmental, and human impacts of food waste and food systems. Opening reception is Friday, Nov. 2, 6-9 p.m. Through Dec. 2. 486 49th St. Free. InterfaceArtGallery.com.

Compound Projects: Encryptions With work by Marie Bouget, Ron Lo, and Daniel Small. Opening reception Nov. 2, 5-8pm. Through Nov. 22. Free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. [illegible]

Joyce Gordon Gallery: Occupy: The Plein Air Story Marking the anniversary of the Occupy Movement with art from these Bay Area plein air painters. Opening

$7

FRIDAY NOV 16 @ BAM/PFA

L@TE

PEGGY HONEYWELL
& BILL DANIEL

In conjunction with our Barry McGee retrospective, retro country girl Peggy Honeywell, a.k.a. Clare Rojas, charmingly belts ballads while Bill Daniel presents "dirt-lot cinema," tracking alt culture from hobos to hot rods.

Programmed by Steve Seid

5:00 Doors

5:30 REMIDS: Lorenzo Hernández y Lozano

7:30 Performance

GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM

Barry McGee ✦ Trimpin: Nancarrow Percussion Orchestra ✦ At the Edge ✦ Points of Departure ✦ Himalayan Pilgrimage

✦ BABETTE: serving dinner, beer & wine until 8:30 ✦

L@TE is made possible by the [illegible] Foundation and [illegible] of the BAM/PFA [illegible]. Special thanks to promotional partner [illegible] and media [illegible]. East Bay Express.

EAST BAY EXPRESS

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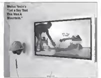
BAM/PFA

PICKS

2 x 2 Solos: Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin

For the seventh installment of its 2 x 2 Solos series, Pro Arts Gallery lends its space to Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin, both of whom are concerned with what could be called "shifting spaces." That is the title of Lyle's work, an installation of angular platforms protruding from the gallery wall vaguely resembling an open book. The work is unassuming, even uninteresting, in and of itself but an accompanying book, filled with schematic iterations of the sculpture spliced with images of natural terrain, reveals an unexpected depth in its ambitions. For Yasin, meanwhile, the shifting space is simultaneously the Israeli/Palestinian border (Yasin was born in Galilee) and her own body. In one video work, she fashions herself into a human yacht and sets sail. In another, civil engineers discuss logistics pertaining to hillside housing developments, using the artist's pregnant belly for model terrain. *2 x 2 Solos: Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin* runs through November 30 at Pro Arts Gallery (150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland). 510-763-4361 or ProArtsGallery.org. *— Alex Bigman*



Wafaa Yasin's "Let a Say That This Was A Mountain."

Donna Anderson Kam

Recology SF's renowned Artist in Residence program encourages participants to scavenge the on-site waste and recycling heaps for materials — perhaps unusual terms. Donna Anderson Kam found a box of pastels and stuck with that. While this choice might not have been the most adventurous, Kam's residency fueled one of her most intriguing bodies of work to date. The large pastel works now on display at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary each began with a newspaper headline. These prompt imagined narratives for the artist, which she then encapsulates in striking, emotionally charged tableaux that she stages, blends with images of scattered detritus, and finally renders in pastel. Ample white space sets a perception of blaring brightness with one of profound silence, and the vibrant pastel coloration renders her stylishly dressed but seemingly tragic characters in a sickly hue, merging them with the pariah. Scrawled packaging strewn about their feet. *Donna Anderson Kam* runs through November 29 at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-260-7494 or ChandraCerritoContemporary.com. *— A.B.*

reception Friday, Nov. 2, 6-9pm. Gossip Poetry Saturday, Nov. 3, 3-5pm. Saturdays, Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. 836 14th St., Oakland. 510-468-0920. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Kala Art Institute Gallery: Keeping Time Exhibition explores various modes of tracking time using a wide array of media and processes. Through Nov. 24. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Krowswork: Mark Baugh-Sasaki: The Untitled Wild Sculpture, photography, installation, video, and drawing that together explore the unmediated hybridity of the California wilderness. Opening reception for the artist Friday, Nov. 16, 6-9 pm. Fridays, 3-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-7035. Krowswork.com.

LeQuiVive Gallery: "Fractoslippin" Artist/musician Kim Kieffer's vision of California forty years after the hippie invasion. Through Nov. 23. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. free. 1525 Webster St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-1780. LeQuiViveGallery.com.

Martina [illegible] Johnston: "All the Pleasant Moments" An exhibition of paintings and sculpture installations by Lorenzo [illegible]. Opening reception Nov. 10, 4-6pm. Saturdays, Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. 2781 Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-558-0893. MartinaJohnston.org.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Cartographies This group show features new work by three artists who use the map as a starting off point for exploration. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. **PK Pinault: Relations of Things Among** PK [illegible] presents, plant materials, and discarded broken objects in [illegible] the middle of mind and memory. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. **Barry Vandor Moor: and in the Interludes** Kelly [illegible] Moor sets a stage with sculpture and [illegible] pieces, along mostly [illegible] to evoke [illegible] drama, humor and [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. Mercury20.com.

Oakland Public Library Teen Zone: [illegible] Exhibit With street art-style work by an 11-year-old Oakland artist. Through Nov. 30. Main Library, Oakland. 510-238-3332. OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakland's Middle: Piedmont Avenue Art Walk With art, entertainment, and refreshments. Participating businesses showcase art works to residents. Third Thursday of every month, 6-9 p.m. free. PiedmontAve.org. Saleh [illegible], between Grand and Lakeshore avenues, Oakland. OaklandArt.org.

[illegible] Creativity Center: [illegible] Gallery [illegible] Through Nov. 17. free. 641 27th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. Oakland[illegible].org.

Point Richmond Third Thursday Art Walk With art activities, and refreshments [illegible] galleries, businesses [illegible] throughout historic downtown Point Richmond. Third Thursday of every month, 6-9 p.m. PointRichmondArtCollective.org. Park [illegible] Richmond.

Pop Up Gallery: "EVERY_BODY" Eleven Bay Area artists present their interpretations of the human figure. Mondays-Sundays, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 7. free. 1513 Park St., Alameda. PopUpGallery.com.

Pro Arts Gallery: 2 x 2 Solos: Cybele Lyle Solo exhibition of new work, curated by Jacqueline Cruz. Through Nov. 30. **2 x 2 Solos: Wafaa Yasin** Solo exhibition of new work, curated by Lauren Schell Dickens. Through Nov. 30. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Studio Quercia: The Nude 2012 An art [illegible] of human nakedness in all its beauty and pathos. Featuring the work of 23 California artists exploring the human form. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 15. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-852-4[illegible]. StudioQ[illegible].com.

Swarm Studios + Gallery: Gallery in Landscape New work from Kathy Aoki and Catalina [illegible]. Opening reception Friday, Nov. 13. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-5:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 25. free. **Kate Hatfield** Showing work in the gallery. Nov. 17-Dec. 23. **Swarm Sampling** Showing in the project room. Nov. 17-Dec. 23. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

Tilden Park Environmental Education Center: Get Active: Youth Create by Swarm Featuring videos, posters, blow ups and poetry by East Bay youth. Tuesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30. free. north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Tian Gallery: Linda Sikora and Matthew Metz Sets of [illegible] pieces from the two artists. Starting Nov. 17. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-5:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. 1872 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-540-8729. TianGallery.com.

Traywick Contemporary: Materials + Process Five artists highlight the gallery program's emphasis on nontraditional materials and media through photographs — some of them avowedly "faded" — sculpture, drawing and collage. Through Dec. 22. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Traywick.com.

University of California Botanical Garden: Habitat: [illegible] Architects, [illegible] and Poets in the Garden A collaborative project between the Botanical Garden and a studio [illegible]

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1. Come to Looking Glass Photo (2848 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley) on Saturday Nov 24th starting at 10am to pick up the list of items on the hunt. Bring your own photo taking device.
2. Hit the streets around the East Bay to capture the items/scenes on the Hunt List and collect points for every item you shoot.
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group of artists, writers, architects, and researchers who spent time in the garden with horticulturalists to develop site-specific works. Through Jan. 13, 2013. NatureAsResource.org. 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Uptown Oakland: Saturday Stroll A weekly component to Art Murmur but with fewer festivities and more focus on the galleries. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 25th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

The Uptown: Third Annual Photo Show Featuring photography by Sharon Carr. Through Nov. 30. free. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100. UptownNightclub.com.

Vessel Gallery: Inside Out: A William Harsh Retrospective Featuring a retrospective of some of the artist's best works. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. 471 25th St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco: Out of Character: Decoding Chinese Calligraphy Featuring new and contemporary work. With various special events; see website for schedule. Through Jan. 13, 2013. free-$18. **In a Dark Light** These works from the museum's collection represent an introduction to the major cultures of Asia. Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco, 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Bancroft Library: Fiat Lux Redux: Ansel Adams and Clark Kerr Both original photographs by Adams, commissioned by former UC President Kerr. Through Feb. 28, 2013. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. [illegible]

BAM/PFA: Barry McGee The first mid-career survey of the prolific San Francisco-based street artist. Features rarely seen early etchings, his signature stacked liquor-bottle sculptures, optical art painted panels, animatronic taggers, a re-creation of a street-corner bodega, and more. Through Dec. 9. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of Dance** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. **Points of Departure** Nineteenth-century paintings, photographs, and works on paper by American and European artists. Through Dec. 2. free-$10. **Trimpin: Nancarrow Percussion Orchestra / MATRIX 244** A new sound installation by the Seattle-based artist Trimpin. The work is created in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the avant-garde American composer Conlon Nancarrow. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 23. free with admission. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Children's Creativity Museum: Reality Dance A hands-on exhibit for kids that provides safe access to arts, media and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-820-3320. Creativity.org.

de Young Museum: The William S. Paley Collection: A Taste for Modernism Showcasing work by Paul Cezanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and others. Through Dec. 30. free-$10. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco, 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Doe Library: All Hail to the Chief: A History of US Presidential Visits to Cal, 1891-2012 An exhibition highlighting campus visits by ten US presidents, on display in the [illegible] floor corridor. Through Nov. 30. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-6138.

Exploratorium: Traits of Life A collection of exhibits and demonstrations revealing the fundamental elements common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu.

Habitot Children's Museum: Shel Game The ongoing exhibition of Roger Goldenberg's song, Shel Game, The Big [illegible] and the Missing Pieces. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Institute of Mosaic Art: California Mosaic Artists: Celebrating Diversity through Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily. **Wonder Art: Pet Portraiture** A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. 3001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-9000. InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

Lacis Museum of Textiles: Treasures of Limit With an exhibition of textiles. Through Feb. 2, 2013. **Treasures** Featuring special items of the Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles. Through Feb. 2, 2013. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science: Math Midway A math-themed educational exhibit for all ages, featuring a rideable tricycle with square wheels, a laser [illegible] Through Jan. 6, 2013. **Science on a Sphere (SOS)** New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, elements sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $5-$12. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life: Memory Lab Interactive installation invites visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. **Modern Jewish History 101: The Art Files** An array of paintings and sculptures by prominent artists illustrating key historical moments in Jewish life, from the attacks on Jews in Russia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to emigration and the Holocaust, in the Charles Michaels Gallery. Through May 31, 2013. **Type/Graphics: Studying Jewish Types in Print and Photography** An exhibition investigating the use of reproducible images in ethnographic and documentary studies of Jewish lives, from the 16th century to the present, in the main gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Good Shirts No. 2: The Inventory Project** An exhibition drawn from Modern Dead from the Magnes, dispersed such as calendars, newsletters, postcards, and other objects, in the Warren Hellman Gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Jewish Posters from the European Jewish Cultural Renaissance, 1163-1994** In the Crawford Gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Modern Jewish History 101: The Art Files** With work inspired by and reflective of Jewish life in various media art by various artists. Through Jan. 13, 2013. free. **Reborn: Posters From The European Jewish Cultural Renaissance, 1163-1994** With post-Holocaust posters from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Israel. Through Dec. 16. free. **Projections** Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections, archival, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Type/Graphics: Studying Jewish Types in Print and Photography** An investigation of the use of reproducible images in ethnographic and documentary studies of Jewish lives, since 16th century to the present, featuring work by Jewish as well as non-Jewish artists. Through Dec. 16. free. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Mills College Art Museum: Dance Rehearsal: Karen Hilmaak's World of Ballet and Theatre An exhibition dedicated to the artist's longstanding engagement with theatrical theatre, especially the Classical and Romantic ballet of the 17th and early 19th centuries. Through Dec. 9. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-3164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

Museum of the African Diaspora: Jewish Jewels: North African Jewelry and Photography from the Xavier Guerrand-Hermès Collection Presenting a collection of North African art of the 19th and 20th centuries, collected by Xavier Guerrand-Hermès. Through Jan. 13, 2013. free-$10. 685 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-358-7200. MOADSF.org.

North Gate Hall: Bag Theater: The 2400 Block of Telegraph Avenue, 1900-1978 With photographs of Telegraph Avenue in decades past, by Nacio Jan Brown. In room 116. Through Jan. 11, 2013. UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Oakland Museum of California: Forget Me Not: Remarkable Lives: Días de los Muertos 2012 The museum's eighteenth annual Días de los Muertos exhibition of altars, art, and installations, curated by Casandra Pineda. Through Dec. 9. free-$12. **Gallery of California Art** With more than 800 works from the OMCA collection. Through Dec. 2. **The 1968 Exhibit** A multimedia exhibition examining the events of 1968, a turning point for a generation coming of age and a nation at war. Through Nov. 25. Museum admission. **Ken and Melanie Light: Valley of Shadows and Dreams** With photographs examining California's Central Valley and highlighting the experience of farm workers and their struggles. Through Dec. 30. **Return of the Porpoises** Harbor porpoises have returned to San Francisco Bay after an absence of 65 years. Bill Keener will discuss the results of research to document the occurrence of porpoises, dolphins, and whales. Thu., Nov. 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. free with museum admission. **Meet the Artist: Playing with Fire** Associate Curator of Design and Decorative Arts and glass artist Mary White discuss the exhibition Playing with Fire: Artists of the California Art Glass Movement. Sat., Nov. 17, 2 p.m. free with museum admission. **Meet the Artist: Days of the Dead** [illegible] discuss what the Days of the Dead altars mean to them. Sun., Nov. 18, 3 p.m. free with museum admission. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: Historic Woodrails Exhibit With 15 woodrails and 20 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinballs from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hasse, Tom Miller and Michael Schwab. Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: Matisse and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Brice Marden, [illegible] Rauschenberg, [illegible] et al. Daily. **Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective** With collages, drawings, paintings, photographs, small sculptures, and jewelry by the seminal Bay Area artist. Through Feb. 3, 2013. free-$18. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collection. Daily. **Six Lines of Flight: Shifting Geographies in Contemporary Art** Featuring work by artists from six burgeoning contemporary art centers: Beirut, Lebanon; Cali, Colombia; Cluj, Romania; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; San Francisco, United States; and Tangier, Morocco. Through Dec. 30. free-$18. **Jasper Johns: Seeing with the Mind's Eye** With more than eighty works in various media by the famed neo-Dadaist. Through Feb. 3, 2013. free-$18. **New Work: Alessandro Pessoli** Featuring work by the painter and sculptor. Through Feb. 17, 2013. free-$18. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Frequency and Volume** With work in various media by the Mexican artist. Through Feb. 3, 2013. free-$18. **Field Conditions** With work by architects and artists including Stan Allen, Frank Auerbach, and Sol LeWitt. Through Jan. 6, 2013. free-$18. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings; photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. **Don't Look Now: Perspective** With old and new work on the conceptual point. Through Jan. 6, 2013. free-$18. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum: Nisei Veterans Experience Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the second-generation Japanese-American troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org. ●

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Shadravan's Art Gallery ⓖ
2435 Telegraph Avenue

Studio Quercus ⓖ
385 26th Street

Vessel Gallery ⓖ
471 25th Street

The Wall Gallery ⓖ
473 25th Street

Warehouse 416 ⓖ
416 26th Street

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33 Grand Avenue

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150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

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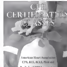

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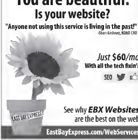

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

After Spears II Show from Speaks, a principal cast member of the sketch comedy show "MAD TV." Fri., Nov. 16, 11 & 11:30 p.m., $10-$50. [illegible] Theatre, 14808 East 14th St., San Leandro, [illegible].

Michael Lynch From the creator of Comedy Off Broadway Oakland. Fri., Nov. 16, 8:30 p.m. $10. Pan Theater, 2115 Broadway, Oakland, 415-298-3541, PanTheater.com.

The Last Laugh With Reverend Kelleher and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. TheLastLaugh.com. Pan Theater, 2115 Broadway, Oakland, 415-298-3541, PanTheater.com.

Lynn Ruth Miller From the creator of Comedy Off Broadway Oakland. Sat., Nov. 17, 8:30 p.m. $10. Pan Theater, 2115 Broadway, Oakland, 415-298-3541, PanTheater.com.

Toil and Trouble A comedic spin on Macbeth directed by Lauren Gunderson. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8. $17, $12 for students. [illegible] Theatre, 1834 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible].

LIVE VARIETY

Devil Kings 4 A drag show featuring Vegan Jake, Danny Puck, Stevie Ray, Mickey Finn, Pepe Pan, Ganur, Logan Cameron and more, followed by dancing and DJs. Third and first Wednesday of every month, 9 p.m. $5. White Horse Inn, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820, WhiteHorseBar.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

4th stories: Eugene O'Neill Night Eugene O'Neill-inspired short plays, connected by the theme "Haunted by the Past." Mon., Nov. 19, 8 p.m. $15-20. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Acid Test: The Many Incarnations of Ram Dass One-man show about the famed spiritual leader directed by Joel Mullennix, written by Lynne Kaufman, and starring [illegible]. Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Nov. 24. $12-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

All My Sons Arthur Miller's 1947 classic. Thu., Nov. 15, 8 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Thu., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 9. $10-20. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777, DMTOnline.org.

[illegible] Emma Zeigler's play about modern families. Sat., Nov. 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-834-5740, 510-464-3210, Laney.peralta.edu.

Don Reed's *The Kipling Hotel: True Misadventures of The Electric Pink 80s* Reed's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a stripper, and a [illegible]. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 16. $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Paranoias in Homeland With Sonia Marq, album release party for *Paranoias in Homeland*. Sat., Nov. 17, 8 p.m. $8-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

An Iliad Retelling of Homer by Obie Award-winner Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare. Through Nov. 18. Check times for show times and tickets. Tuesdays-Sundays. $34-$77. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

[illegible]: Shadow Puppet Shadow An evening of Balinese Wayang Kulit shadow puppet theater by master puppeteer Midiyanto, with live accompaniment by Gamelan Sari Raras. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $5-$15. Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-6989.

Little Women, The Musical [illegible] directs a musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel about four sisters and the melodramatic stories one of them writes in her studio. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8. $27. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Marry Me in the End of Love An interactive performance art piece about the Shi'a Islamic tradition of temporary marriage (Sigheh). Thu., Nov. 15, 6-9 p.m., free. Subterranean Arthouse, 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, SubterraneanArthouse.org.

Nightwatch By poet, students, and playwright [illegible]. Part of the "New Play Reading Series." Thu., Nov. 15, 8 p.m., free. Durham Studio Theater, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-3399, Theater.berkeley.edu.

Richard III The final installment of the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley's 55th season is Shakespeare's classic. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 17. $12-15. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-5999.

Richard The First A trilogy of plays about Richard the Lionheart's [illegible] in a brutal medieval world. The three plays rotate by day, so check their schedule online. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Nov. 18. $25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7800, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

The Songbird of Paris The story of legendary French singer Edith Piaf. Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. $15-35. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

The Sound of Music Directed by Elizabeth McKoy. Sundays, 12 & 5 p.m.; Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 25, noon; Sun., Dec. 2, 12 & 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 2. $17-35. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

[illegible] Update World-premiere musical about life in the digital age, written by Dorothy Fortenberry, directed by [illegible], and produced by Center REP. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:15 p.m.; Sundays, 2:15 p.m. Continues through Nov. 18. $25-$38. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

The Underpants Farce written by Steve Martin, directed by Michael Butler, and produced by CenterREP. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 17. $33-$50. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

The White Snake Tony award-winning director Mary Zimmerman helms this world-premiere adaptation of an ancient Chinese legend. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 23. $58-$99. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Wilder Times Barbara Oliver directs four short plays by Thornton Wilder. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 9. $32-$60. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Woody Guthrie's American Song A Shadow by Peter Glazer, tracking Woody Guthrie's life, featuring over two dozen of his songs. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 18. $15, $10 for UCB students. Durham Studio Theater, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-3399, theater.berkeley.edu.

PICKS

8x8x8

There's no dance party at The Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, Nov. 20. The audience does the partying while performers in the annual 8x8x8 showcase dance on the stage, the floor, and possibly the ceiling. The show gets two-thirds of its name from the original format, an eight-by-eight-foot floor space at a smaller club, but it's become so popular that size no longer matters. In The Uptown's main room, Paufve Dance, Dandelion Dancetheater, Bandaloop's aerial innovator Amelia Rudolph, Christy Funsch (with Erin Mei-Ling Stuart), Polling Kao, Rogelio Garcia Lopez, Nicole Klaymoon's Embodiment Project, and Nina Haft & Company can expand as far as they want, both spatially and creatively. The result is wildly unpredictable, occasionally entertaining, and as well-crafted as a perfectly mixed cocktail. As for the third "8" in the name? It comes from the cover charge, which is just $8. Ages 21 and over. 8:30 p.m. 415-722-2457 or PaufveDance.org — *Claudia Bauer*

Diablo Ballet

The holiday season kicks off on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16-17, when Diablo Ballet launches its first-ever holiday show. The mixed program at the Lesher Center (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek) is actually a hybrid that starts out with non-holiday fare: *Lento a Tempo e Appassionato*, a dramatic duet choreographed by Vicente Nebrada of Ballet Nacional de Caracas and accompanied by live music composed by Alexander Scriabin, and *The Moor's Pavane*, an interpretation of *Othello* by modern-dance legend José Limón. The mistletoe comes out after intermission with *A Swingin' Holiday*, created by Broadway choreographer and former Houston Ballet principal Sean Kelly to a suite of holiday hits and swing tunes played by a sixteen-piece live band. After the Saturday matinee, meet and greet the dancers in the lobby. Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m. $26-$52. 925-943-7469 or LesherCenter.org. — *C.B.*

Paufve Dance

THEATER REVIEW

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

Thornton Wilder's less-is-more approach is perfectly realized in *Wilder Times*

By Erika Milvy

Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town* has long been a staple of high school theater everywhere. But its popularity is somewhat counterintuitive. While the play explores community and small town life ultimately, it's about mortality and loss. And if it's done right, it can be pretty piercing. According to Wikipedia, a 1946 production in Berlin was halted because it was deemed so depressing that people feared it might lead to a wave of suicides.

Beginning in 1931, seven years before he wrote *Our Town*, Wilder (who actually graduated from Berkeley High) began examining these themes in several one-act plays; four are being staged at Aurora Theatre under the title *Wilder Times*. Marvelously staged with cogency and humor under Barbara Oliver's deft direction, the plays consider the stages of life from infancy to old age, as they reveal family connections and disconnection among generations.

Set in Central Park, *Infancy* begins with a nanny (terrifically played by Heather Gordon) parking a gigantic pram and sitting on a bench to read her Harlequin-type novel which makes her somewhat hot and bothered and oblivious to the crying baby — actually an adult man in a lace bonnet — in the carriage. Baby Tommy (Patrick Russell) is desperately trying to understand adults. Helping him is baby Moe (Brian Trybom), whose parents fill his head with facts, having been informed that babies are geniuses who learn more in fourteen months than they will after that. "Sometimes these are called fingers, but sometimes they are called *piggies*," Moe explains, trying to make sense of the adult world.

But the adults are anything but grown-up. The cartoonish beat cop (Soren Oliver) pines for the ditzy nanny, but knows he is not allowed to exchange personal remarks with citizens. "Personal remarks make the world go round," he blabbers. And the nanny is similarly ardent. The whole thing hinges on a sight gag, but introduces themes of differing perspectives and the generation gap.

The next play, *Childhood*, takes the generation gap to a darker place. Stacy Ross plays a mother who is forever exasperated by her three children's morbid pretend play. "Caroline would be in constant mourning if it were up to her," she tells her husband (a golf-playing Fifties-era dad played by Trybom). The parents have all sorts of expectations of their children (played by Marcia Pizzo, Gordon and Patrick Russell), but the kids really only have one rule: They will imagine all sorts of morose scenarios but they will not say "death." They say, "away."

Make-believe becomes wistful as the parents appear as uninvited characters in the kids' pretend-game, which slips into an unsettling dream in which sad people take the fun out of things. It has the increasingly creepy feel of a Ray Bradbury story.

The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden bears a resemblance to *Our Town* in its bare-bones narrative and unadorned directness. It marks the first appearance of Thorton Wilder's Stage Manager character, who shows up in *Our Town*. The Stage Manager flatly reads lines from off-stage. It's an element of Brechtian anti-realism: the play is more than its story and Wilder doesn't want us to be lulled into placid spectatorship.

Pantomiming a car ride, a wide-eyed provincial family takes a road trip to see the "married daughter." The family members are easy going, good-natured, and marvel at the world through their windows. The wife is deferential to her husband, the children are well-behaved, and if a parent is cross, a son is contrite and everybody hugs and tears up. Ross once again shines as the austere but nurturing mother who faces life's tragedies with a loud word but a resolutely stiff upper lip.

The last play, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, is a brilliant blending of realism and modernism: as one family meal lasts a century. Aging matriarchs, patriarchs, and progeny switch seats in a comic — but unsettling — game of musical chairs.

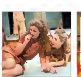
The play takes a cubist approach to time as it simultaneously moves as fast as lightning and as slow as drying paint. The approach is brilliant. Actions repeat and words are spoken again and again. Babies are born and characters exit the stage to die with nothing more than the light sound of a gust of wind. There's a sense of vertigo in the multiple temporal progressions — nothing changes and yet everything does. We're shown what the characters can't see — that life can be minute and momentous, and that tedious minutes add up to epochs.

Part of what makes *Wilder Times* so effective is the smart use of smart Pizzo, who plays the defiant eldest child in *Childhood*, plays the mournful adult daughter in *The Happy Journey*. In *Childhood*, she begins to sense that life will hold sadness, which will replace pretend-sadness. In *The Happy Journey*, she comes to experience that and, in a wheelchair in *The Long Christmas Dinner*, she looks back at her childhood and implores her children to remember. And to write it down. ●

Erika.Milvy@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Wilder Times runs through December 11 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $32-$50. 510-843-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org.



Wilder Times benefits from smart casting. Jessica Palopoli

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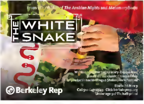
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LECTURES&LIT

Oakland, in Its Own Wards

Matt Werner explores the city through its art

It wasn't until college that Matt Werner began to truly understand the meaning of his hometown. He remembers it vividly: He was at UC Berkeley, chatting with someone at a party, when she asked where he was from. He told her Oakland, which was met with an "Oakland? We don't go into Oakland."

It's a conversation that anyone who's lived in Oakland stumbles into at some point or another, but it stuck with Werner. "It was clear that the mere mention of Oakland triggered something of a fear response in her," he recalls in the introduction to his new book, *Oakland in Popular Memory*. "For the first time, I began to consider Oakland through the eyes of an outsider."

Matt Werner

And to an outsider, Oakland is, in the words of poet and book participant Chinaka Hodge, as quoted by Werner, "persistently upstaged, asterisked, and misunderstood" — maligned by a media climate that's ever-more motivated by the if-it-bleeds-it-leads ethos; positioned as a poorer, blacker, grungier alternative to San Francisco; praised for its cuisine and Art Murmur but little else.

"When I tell people I'm from Oakland who are from outside the Bay Area, they'll ask me about the TV show *Gang Wars: Oakland*, the Ebonics debate in the Nineties, or the riots after the Raiders lost the Super Bowl in '03," Werner said. The book was borne out of that — not necessarily out of a desire to sugarcoat the city, but to give people a sense of what's going on here through interviews with twelve artists: rappers and writers and slam poets, people who Werner said "really know what's happening on the ground."

Yet aside from the introduction, the book's purported central theme — Oakland's position in and perception by the popular consciousness — hardly ever comes up. Or if it does, it's subtle. *Oakland in Popular Memory* is not particularly interested in hitting anyone over the head; the interviews contained in the book are organic, easy, and guided by the interviewees' interests rather than by some overarching thematic whet. For poet, playwright, and musician Ise Lyfe, that's the meaning of race and authenticity in the Obama era; for Victor Vasquez, aka Kool A.D. of the avant hip-hop act Das Racist, it's Occupy; for others, it's poverty, art, war, language, food, violence, *Citizen Hero*, Robert Redford, the prevalence of Auto-Tune. They feel less like interviews than chats between friends, drifting loosely between the personal and political, the superficial and the substantive, the optimistic and the pessimistic — not so much about Oakland as profoundly informed by it.

To live in and love a place like Oakland is, all too often, to be on the defensive; to be, by necessity, unequivocal and straightforward in praise. But Werner avoids that through his interviews, and that's what makes the book work. "There are these really stark realities here," he said. "But what I'm saying is, Oakland is a never-ending conversation."

Werner will participate in an Oakland Heritage Alliance Authors of Oakland meet-and-greet and book sale at First Christian Church (111 Fairmount Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, November 15, at 7:15 p.m., and will perform a reading of the book at the Oakland Main Library (125 14th St.) on Wednesday, November 28, at 6 p.m. Free. MattsWriting.com

— *Ellen Cushing*

LECTURES

Aluf Benn: "Reporting from Israel" An evening with the editor of Israel's oldest progressive newspaper, Haaretz. Thu., Nov. 15, 8 p.m., free. North Gate Library, Hearst St. at Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-643-3640.

Berkeley Marc: "The Economic and Ecological Crunch" Anthony Marc speaks to the [illegible] and environmental problems that lie ahead of us. Tue., Nov. 20, 1 p.m., $5 suggested. Unitarian Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.org.

"From Commonwealth to Private Wealth: How Land Became Real Estate & All That Cost" A presentation by Dr. Gray Brechin (author and visiting scholar at UC Berkeley). Thu., Nov. 15, 8-9 p.m., $5-$10 suggested donation. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. BFUU.org.

McKenzie Wark The media theorist from the New School discusses how computing and communication have changed class relations. Mon., Nov. 19, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Doe Library [illegible], [illegible] Hall, Berkeley.

Michio Ishikawa: "Humanity at the Crossroads" Becoming a more just society. Sun., Nov. 18, 1:30-4:30 p.m., free. James Moore Theater, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Post-Capitalism Explained Cynthia Kaufman and Wilson Riles in discussion on building a new, vibrant, grassroots economy. Sun., Nov. 18, 3-5 p.m., free. Berkeley Park Senior Corp., 1415 Oregon St., Berkeley.

Rosemary Gillespie: "Evolution on Hawaiian Islands" Part of the Science@Cal lecture series. Sat., Nov. 17, 11 a.m., free. UC Berkeley Genetics and Plant Biology Building, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Tamim Ansary: "Games Without Rules: The Often-Interrupted History of Afghanistan" The Afghan American author discusses his book about the long internal struggle in the Middle Eastern country that the Western world has never fully understood. Part of the Berkeley Arts & Letters series. Thu., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., $7-$15. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

"What Now?" A Post-Election Panel on Politics and the Environment Discussing the implications of the election results on our environment. Featuring Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, former EPA regional administrator Felicia Marcus, and *Earth Island Journal* editor Jason Mark. Thu., Nov. 15, 7-9 p.m., $20. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

Zadie Zabriskie Zabriskie reads from her new collection of short stories, *TBTW*. Thu., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Jay Jeffdarn and Matthew Cooperman Thu., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Anne Lamott Discussing her new book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. Thu., Nov. 15, 1 p.m., free. Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Dr., Oakland. MPCFamily.org.

Art, Heal Rhyme Society Writer Cort Crosby hosts a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and create a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 6-8:30 p.m. CortCrosby.com. The 25th Street Collective, 411 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-3185. 25thStreetCollective.com.

Autobiography and Memoir Book Discussion Group Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 B St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.Hayward-CA.gov.

Debbie Dilbeggio Launching her book, *Oakland Beauty: Photography, Reflections and Surviving Pixels*. Sat., Nov. 17, 4 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Francesca Gabriel A book and CD release party featuring her "extravagantical songs" of Francesca Genco. Benefiting the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned

PICKS

2012 Presidential Election Recap

Glory be: this year's presidential election is — finally, definitively, mercifully — over. (If only we could say the same for "binders full of women" jokes.) But there's still a lot in process, culturally and politically, which is where this panel discussion comes in, with journalists from NPR and Politico joining forces with academics from Berkeley and Stanford to discuss not only the results themselves, but what they hold for the future of election reform, campaign finance, and political strategy. Consider it closure. On Friday, Nov. 16, at Banatao Auditorium in Sutardja Dai Hall (UC Berkeley campus). Sponsored by the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. 6 p.m., free, RSVP to JulieHirano@Berkeley.edu, 510-642-5934 or Journalism.Berkeley.edu. — *Ellen Cushing*

Beeswax and Monday Night Magazine Reading

[illegible] blaze, lit mags, and various other publications of the decidedly low-budget, low-gloss, underground and indie persuasion aren't just hanging on — they're thriving. To wit, on Friday, Nov. 16, not one but two new local magazines celebrate their new issues at Diesel (5433 College Ave., Berkeley): *Monday Night*, a long-running journal of poetry and prose; and *Beeswax*, an Oakland-based multimedia mag that employs such delightfully old-school flights of design fancy as letterpress covers and hand-stitched spines. Both will be represented by a bevy of high-profile local talent — *Monday Night* by writer-artist Sean Craven and poet Valerie Witte, and *Beeswax* by novelist Hugh Behm-Steinberg and poet Diana Arterian — and are certain to double-handedly restore your faith in the power of ink on paper. 7 p.m., free. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com. — *E.C.*

Yes, Bay Area: Selected Tweets of Lyrics Born

Lit events don't get much more dynamic, contemporary, or quietly subversive than this. *Yes, Bay Area* features not an author, but a rapper (local hero Lyrics Born), reading not a novel, but his own tweets, for a crowd that we can only assume will be not lit-event sedate but rap-show engaged. Brought to you by First Person Singular, a lit series that's basically made a mission out of being dynamic/contemporary/subversive, the event will feature 140-character nuggets of wisdom culled from the rapper's limited-edition book of the same. To which we can only say: Yes, Bay Area. At Pegasus Books Downtown (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-649-1320 or PegasusBookstore.com. — *E.C.*

Lyrics Born

Brownie Bakes Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $35. Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Dr., Oakland. 510-635-3663, ACCFB.org.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 1 a.m.-6 p.m., free. 510-705-1200, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10570 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-705-1290, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Hello Beast and Speakeasy PR Thursdays Open mic poetry. $4. Doors at 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry, rap, food, live DJs, and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629, EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

J.L. Tamfords Reading from 'The Barn, and Flocking Mare.' Thu., Nov. 15, 7 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Lynn Hawthorne Harrison and contributors share their stories from *Writing the Mother Mother: How to Tap Memory and Write Your Story Capturing* [illegible]. Fri., Nov. 16, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226, BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Lyrics and Dirges Featuring a new slate of emerging writers every month. Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland. 510-649-1320, PegasusBookstore.com.

Margaret Talbot Reading from her new book, *The Entertainer*. Thu., Nov. 15, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Mariah K. Young and Fred Setterberg The Berkeley authors read from their new books: Young reads from her [illegible] novel, *Masha*, and Fred Setterberg reads from *Lunch Bucket Paradise: A True-Life Novel*. Mon., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland. 510-649-1320, PegasusBookstore.com.

Not Your Mother's Book Club Presenting a group to [illegible] specializing in tales of [illegible]. Fri., Nov. 16, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Paul de Barros Presenting *Shall We Play That One Together?*, his new biography of legendary jazz pianist and creator of NPR's Piano Jazz program Marian McPartland. Sun., Nov. 18, 4:30 p.m., free. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226, BooksInc.net/Alameda.

The Berkeley Poets An [illegible] dedicated to poetry and experimental fiction, with a reading area, recordings of poets, and a [illegible] to take a look at [illegible] overview of East Bay presses. Through Dec. 9. BAM/PFA, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Third Tuesday Triple Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant leads a monthly poetry critique. Bring 10 copies of one to two poems for the group. Third Tuesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Continues through June 17. 925-398-5520, PoetsLane.com. Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-8826, TowneCenterBooks.com.

Whitney Otto Reading from her new novel, *Eight Girls Taking Pictures*. Fri., Nov. 16, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

Writers' Support and Berkeley Group Open to all writers. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley Branch. Sat., Nov. 17, 1-3 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 15, 1-3 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Ying Lee Reading from his book, *From Shanghai to Berkeley*. Sun., Nov. 18, 3 p.m., free. Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2350, AsiaBookCenter.com.

Zara Raab Poetry with Zara Raab. Wed., Nov. 21, 7-9 p.m., free. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

Dead Poet Reading from *Poems of Dead Crime and Little Invisible Things*. Fri., Nov. 16, 6-8 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

More Listings Online

Get info about dozens more literary events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

PUBLIC INTEREST

California Writers Club Meeting Featuring Jonas Alexander — novelist, screen, radio and TV writer — talking about craft, pacing, and how scenes work. Sun., Nov. 18, 2-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Green Energy Efficiency Workshop Learn about home improvements that will save you money and energy. Thu., Nov. 15, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Glenview Elementary School Gymnasium, 4215 La Cresta Ave., Oakland. 510-836-6150.

Living Liberally: Drinking Liberally A political discussion group. First and third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677, LukasOakland.com.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam With spoken word and an improvisational band or DJ. Hosted by Betty Gomez. Feat. Jamie DeWolf, Sonya, and Katelyn Lucas. Cash prizes, word work. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082, StarryPloughPub.com.

The Golden State Poetry Slam and Open Mic Hosted by three-time Grand Slam Champion [illegible], Loving Rhea & Dap Watts, with music by DJ Harvey Kent. All ages welcome. Earn a spot on the 2012 Slam team. First and third Sunday of every month, 9:30-11 p.m., $5-$7. 662-588-8672, GSSlam.com. Arena Lake Center House, 448 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-322-1567.

Poetry Diversified A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers. Hosted by poetry ensemble Tree Santos. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-2993, WorldGroundCafe.com.

Storytelling Swap Storytelling open mic hosted by Cathy Beall. Happens the third Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

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SOUTHERN COMFORT

Get thee to Soul's Restaurant for stick-to-your-ribs soul food classics and one of the best Sunday buffet bargains in town

By Luke Tsai

It's a little before noon on a Sunday at Soul's Restaurant in East Oakland, and the after-church crowd is here in full force — groups of ten, twenty people who come every week, ladies in their good shoes, ladies in hats. The walls of the restaurant are lined with framed posters of important figures in black history — Rosa chilling with Thurgood, Barack and Booker T. A big inscribed placard reads "Jesus is Lord."

The food — served buffet-style on Sundays — is straight up soul food like someone's grandma would serve in Georgia or Louisiana: fried chicken and waffles, collard greens and black-eyed peas, mac 'n' cheese and thick, creamy grits. None of it is fussy or especially adventurous, but much of it is quite tasty.

The overall effect, then, is a little bit like a church potluck held at a nice convention center, and that makes sense: Soul's Restaurant was founded in 2009 by the Acts Full Gospel Church, whose leaders wanted to create a family-friendly, healthier-than-fast-food dining option in East Oakland. Run as a nonprofit, Soul's is also known for hiring and training ex-felons — participants in the church's Men of Valor training program. In short, there's a pretty strong community-oriented feel to the place, with a large part of the staff made up of church members and trainees trying to get back on their feet.

But this isn't amateur hour. Although it's pretty far removed from the city's main commercial hubs, Soul's is one of the biggest — and nicest — soul food restaurants in town, with plush upholstered seating, a private banquet room and its own parking lot. The cooks, headed by chef Rose Johnson, are pros (not ex-cons) with years of restaurant experience. (Several of them hail from Louisiana, if you value that kind of stamp of authenticity.)

All this added up to food that mostly exceeded our expectations — even the brunch buffet, which is somewhat of an ignominious institution that I associate with chain restaurants and faceless hotel dining rooms. Soul's has a little bit of that vibe, with its vast dining area and its warming trays and cafeteria-style service.

But as any veteran buffet goer will tell you, the key to a happy buffet experience is figuring out how to cut through the chaff to get to the good stuff — the one or two dishes that really shine. (When I lived in Taiwan, there was a Thai buffet I frequented solely for its all-you-can-eat Movenpick chocolate-chip ice cream.)

At Soul's, most of the brunch buffet options ranged somewhere between "not bad" and "fine." Sausage patties, scrambled eggs, and thick white grits inspired neither grumbling nor poetic turns of phrase. The fried potato rounds — lukewarm and limp from too much time in the warming tray — were probably the weakest link. The chewy, thick-cut bacon was pretty good.

My advice, though? Save most of your stomach space for the fried chicken wings: juicy, meaty specimens served whole — tips, flats, drumettes and all. These had a satisfyingly craggly, crisp outer crust and, most impressively for a buffet, were served piping hot. Over the course of an hour the kitchen staff brought out three or four fresh trays, filled to the brim, the chicken just minutes out of the fryer.

Also worth ordering are the pancakes, which are included in the price of the buffet ($10.95), though you have to request them from your server separately. These are standard old-fashioned American pancakes — cooked to order, though, and fluffier and more buttery than you'd expect. I found out too late that there are waffles, too, and French toast and hot biscuits — all available by request.

But one more time, so we're clear: *The fried chicken is delicious, and it's all-you-can-eat.*

That in and of itself should be enough to get thee to East Oakland on a Sunday morning — or afternoon, if you prefer, as the restaurant switches over to its even more sumptuous dinner buffet after two o'clock.

Even if you come to Soul's on a non-buffet day, you need to be prepared to pack in an awful lot of food. The restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, but there's a dinner special every other day of the week — short ribs on Wednesdays, smothered steak on Thursdays. All dinner plates come with three sides, chosen from about a dozen options.

We came back on a Friday night, when the oxtail special was available, and while I've rarely met an oxtail I didn't like, these were an especially satisfying version: eight or nine pieces, cut smaller than usual, unctuous, tender enough to spoon-feed to a baby, and smothered in dark, rich gravy. We got a fried chicken dinner, too — the thighs and drumsticks proving a worthy follow-up to Sunday's wings. And, wanting to sample all the classics, we ordered a plate of cornmeal-breaded fried catfish — a little muddy-tasting, but plump and moist and good enough with a couple shakes of Crystal hot sauce.

There were nine side dishes between the three of us — nothing short of a feast, though not all of them were good. But there were perfectly cooked collard greens, Thanksgiving-worthy sweet yams, and red beans and rice so creamy and savory that my dining companion wolfed them down before I had a chance to take more than a couple bites.

Look, hipsters: Soul's Restaurant isn't Picán, and it isn't Brown Sugar Kitchen. It isn't a happening scene. I can't speak for the provenance of the meat, and it's possible that a few (but not too many) of the ingredients came out of a box or a can. But it is a family-friendly place that serves honest, unpretentious food. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

Soul's Restaurant

6403 Foothill Blvd., Oakland
510-777-1300
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
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Sample Menu

Fried Chicken Dinner (Three Pieces)	$15
Smothered Oxtails Dinner	$16.95
Fried Catfish Dinner	$16
Sunday Breakfast Buffet	$10.95
Peach Cobbler	$4.75

WHAT THE FORK

THE POLITICS OF COOKING

A UC Berkeley panel discussion features a lineup of all-star chefs and other heroes of the culinary world

By Luke Tsai

Is there such a thing as food-nerd heaven, maybe it's a college course taught by Michael Pollan (*In Defense of Food*, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*) playing host to a rock star lineup of speakers that includes farmers, food activists, and some of the Bay Area's most respected chefs. That's the gist of Edible Education 103: "Telling Stories About Food and Agriculture," a sixteen-week class on food politics sponsored by Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard Project and open to all UC Berkeley students. Yes, the revolution will be brought to you by Chez Panisse, and there will (occasionally) be refreshments.

In short, Cal students have got it good. Luckily, the class is also open to the public — three hundred free seats each week, available by reservation a week in advance. So it was that I found myself in Wheeler Hall last Tuesday night for a cooking talk led by a panel of heavyweights: Jerome Waag (executive chef of Chez Panisse), Charlie Hallowell (chef-owner of Pizzaiolo and Boot and Shoe Service), Samin Nosrat (cooking teacher and former Eccolo sous-chef), and Harold McGee (probably the most well-known authority on the science of cooking).

The talk began with Pollan making a tongue-in-cheek reference to the Roman historian Livy's assertion that when the chefs become celebrities, it's a sure sign that a society is in decline. It ended with a sampling of the sweet Early Girl tomato sauce that the chefs spent an hour and a half lovingly simmering, stirring, and straining. (Needless to say, it was delicious.)

Here are five takeaways from the discussion that took place in between.

1. If you aspire to make a name for yourself in the restaurant world, bus tables at Chez Panisse.

It turns out that the notion of working your way up from the very bottom of the ladder really *can* happen in the restaurant industry — at least at Chez Panisse, where all three of the featured chefs launched their careers.

Nosrat was a journalism student at UC Berkeley when she ate her first meal at Chez Panisse after having scrimped and saved for months, and was so inspired that it changed the course of her life: she applied for a job as a busser at the restaurant soon after. For her, Chez Panisse was the ultimate happy place. She was so smitten that she'd think to herself, "I can't believe they're trusting me with vacuuming the downstairs [restaurant]."

Meanwhile, Waag, a native of Provence, France, also started his career in his early twenties as a Chez Panisse busboy — one who, by his own account, was so terrible at bussing tables that his employers ended up sending him to the kitchen instead (!).

2. The food biz is where former English majors go to die.

None of the panelists intended to dedicate their lives to cooking: Hallowell was an English lit major and aspiring scholar of Chinese literature who only applied for a cooking job when he suddenly found himself with a young family to support. McGee, holder of the rare Bachelor of Science degree in English, said he got into food science after he wrote a thesis about Keats and shockingly couldn't find a job. And Nosrat was planning to become a full-time journalist when she realized that those jobs didn't really exist anymore — so she became a cook instead. (A line of reasoning that I, understandably, found both inspiring and depressing.)

3. Forget meditation, try cooking.

Several panelists boiled down the politics of cooking to the idea of mindfulness — of being fully engaged and present in the world. Nosrat described cooking as "a form of meditation": the moment you stop paying attention, the dish inevitably gets ruined, no matter how many times you've made it before.

Waag talked about how Chez Panisse has a terrible stove, basically the cheapest kind you can buy (*really?*), and how most dishes are cooked directly in fire. It's a method that is so fickle, you have no choice but to be completely engaged in what you're doing — unlike the style of cooking "where you put something in a water bath at a certain temperature for a certain time," Waag said.

4. Good food is expensive, except when it isn't.

Near the end of the evening, Pollan brought up the elephant in the room: How would the chefs respond to critics who say their restaurants are too expensive to be accessible to the masses?

Waag's answer — alluding to the cost of supporting small farmers and the fact that similar restaurants charge two or three times as much as Chez Panisse — wasn't altogether satisfying, even if it was accurate. And Hallowell's response, which addressed the expense inherent in training his employees to really know how to cook (not just heat up frozen, pre-assembled dishes), probably won't do much to convince lower-income folks that Pizzaiolo is a great deal.

Nevertheless, one of the evening's most exciting revelations came when Hallowell said he would love to open a restaurant with a menu built around $5 plates of rice and beans. Let it be so!

5. "The world is trying to steal your humanity. Cooks are trying to help you steal it back."

That's Hallowell again, with the applause line that summed up the evening's central theme.

For those interested, upcoming Edible Education class sessions will feature such luminaries as Alice Waters herself and the activist Raj Patel. The class is always on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Sign up online at EdibleSchoolyard.org/news-events/events. ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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Aunt Mary's Cafe

43[illegible] Oakland, 510-60[illegible]. With national attention [illegible] renewal as a funky eating destination, restaurant owners in the North Oakland neighborhood must be feeling the pressure to charm both the locals and the occasional tourist curious about the buzz. The menu at this casual breakfast-and-lunch spot takes inspiration from the owner's Texas boyhood and Georgia-born auntie, a mix of cornbread South and chili-spiked Tex-Mex. Overall the food is tasty and plentiful, even if the kitchen sometimes loses sight of crucial details. Some of the best stuff is deep-fried, like the New Orleans rice fritters called calas. The house-baked breads and pastries are gems. $-$$

B-Side BBQ

3303 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-595-0227. B-Side is the newest venture from Brown Sugar Kitchen's perennially popular Tanya Holland in the old Yardie Jerk space on San Pablo Avenue in West Oakland. Holland has no barbecue-specific experience, but her brand remains strong as well in carving out some new culinary territory. B-Side's brisket is exemplary, as are its sides and barbecue chicken, but the ribs never quite match up to expectations. Nothing is groundbreaking, but it's still a very tasty addition to the area's slim offerings of quality barbecue. Meats come from Niman Ranch and other quality purveyors. $$

Blackberry Bistro

4240 [illegible] Oakland, 510-336-1088. The original chef-owner has moved on, but hungry crowds continue to pack the sidewalk on weekends, proof that this compact Glenview spot still has legs. The menu, Deep South meets North Oakland, is pretty much unchanged, and dishes like shrimp and grits, frittatas, and cheesy omelets are just as rib-sticking as ever. Some signature dishes have lost a bit of their former flourish, such as stodgy banana-bread pudding that needed a bit more baking and a clammy potato pancake. Stick to the eggy basics and you won't go wrong. $-$$

Brown Sugar Kitchen

2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7685. Tanya Holland's light and lively nouvelle-soul cuisine has found a home at this retro-chic diner set among the lofts and warehouses of West Oakland. Breakfasts include bacon-cheddar muffins and sticky buns, a delectable, custard-like egg and vegetable tart, and light-as-air buttermilk waffles with crunchy juicy fried chicken. Lunchtime offers luscious, pineapple-glazed barbecued ribs, a below-par gumbo, the po' boy sandwich of the day, and a marvelous array of side dishes (try the sweet potato-Gruyère gratin). Friendly, knowledgeable service. $$

Disco Volante

347 14th St., Oakland, 510-663-0271. This hip downtown nightspot restaurant serves an all-day bistro menu of intriguing California-fusion creations like tender smoky pork ribs with spicy cabbage and fresh pineapple, and tacos stuffed with tempura avocado and jicama slaw, plus a daily-changing menu of dinnertime specials. The dense, chewy coffee flan is a weird and wonderful dessert, the beer list is impressive indeed, and the kitchen is open until at least midnight seven nights a week. $$

Full House Cafe

3719 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-3005. This modest Laurel District diner has earned the affection of neighborhood denizens, attracting lines on the weekends and Best of the East Bay nominations year after year. The cornmeal pancakes consistently win high praise, and the corned beef hash is some of the best around. $

Hibiscus

1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2626. Long known for its inventive nouveau-Caribbean fare, Hibiscus recently reopened with an updated design, a different chef, a sleek, adjacent late-night lounge, and a newfound focus on the classic flavors of the American South. The menu changes often and can occasionally feel unnecessarily heavy, but standouts include the sweet-potato soup, the cornbread, and the silky-smooth, gravy-soaked mashed potatoes. $$$

Home of Chicken and Waffles

444 Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-836-4446. The popular soul food restaurant's interior is tricked out with sparkly blue upholstery and shiny starburst lights. The menu lists every possible combination of chicken (fried or fried and smothered), waffles, greens, yams, cornbread, and black-eyed peas you can think of, each named after a family member (highlights: all the sides and the mile-high coconut cake). And yes, you're supposed to eat the chicken and waffles with syrup. $

Lois the Pie Queen

851 60th St., Emeryville, 510-658-5616. Lois the Pie Queen passed away almost twenty years ago, but her legendary Oakland restaurant continues to thrive under the stewardship of her son. The food is only half the charm — the homey, family feel draws a crowd of longtime regulars. Breakfast and lunch are superb, with fluffy flapjacks, creamy grits, and biscuits worth an intercity drive. Even if it's before noon, no one would chide you for following up your steak and eggs with a slice of Lois's regal lemon icebox pie. $-$$

Nellies

1155 3rd St., Oakland, 510-625-1350. Nellie Owens — Miss Nellie to you — and her daughter Quenette have followed [illegible] to the warehouse district of West Oakland with the promise of fried chicken and a gospel-filled jukebox, both of which make their guests break out in song. Skip the pork chops, steak, and sandwiches and stick with lovingly rendered Southern classics. If you get there early enough, order one of the daily specials, like oxtail, short ribs, or smothered chicken, because they sell out by the middle of the evening. All the entrées earn you the right to three sides, and three is never enough. $$

Phat Matt's BBQ

3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-7209. Tender, juicy, supple flesh is the prime attraction at this unpretentious rib joint just under the [illegible] MacArthur cloverleaf. Texas-style beef brisket, North Carolina pulled pork, and a quarter-chicken doused in house-made barbecue sauce are almost creamy in texture, while the brick-red hot links snap, crackle, and spice up your insides. The chewy tri-tip, however, is readily avoidable. Side dishes are mostly unimpressive (exception: the wonderfully tangy potato salad), but don't skip the praline-like pecan pie or the blissful, buttery peach cobbler. $-$$

Picán

2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000. This striking yet sultry Uptown destination serves classic Southern cooking with an upscale California slant: lush, silky she-crab soup, fried chicken drizzled with truffle-infused organic honey, meltingly tender barbecued ribs with peanut jalapeño coleslaw, a towering root beer float with sassafras ice cream. The handsome setting is all high ceilings, earth tones, and Old South elegance, and the bar pours the Bay Area's finest selection of single-barrel bourbons. $$-$$$

SBS Seafood

4021 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-5014. There's a row of deep-fat fryers at SbS and not much else. For more than a decade, SbS has been frying up crispy, tender, cornmeal-crusted seafood. The fried oysters are the best in town, and the buffalo, snapper, and prawns come close. A regular-size order is enough for a hungry grown man, and the large orders serve two. For a smaller appetite, try one of the sandwiches, such as the oysterburger or catburger (catfish, that is). $

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Borgo Italia

499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-2606. The owners of Borgo Italia say they've sought to create the kind of unpretentious, well-rooted, family-run trattoria that you find everywhere in the Italian countryside — a place serving *cucina casalinga*, or simple home cooking. It's the kind of thing every Italian restaurateur talks about, but there is a ring of authenticity here. And even though the carb-heavy menu is somewhat inconsistent, what's good is *really* good. Standouts include the *torta fritta emiliana* — ravioli-shaped squares of puffy fried dough that turn out to be the perfect vehicle for cured meats — and risotto that's cooked the proper Italian way. Most importantly, don't sleep on pastry chef Franco Camboli's creamy, bittersweet warm doughnut-like *ciambelli*, rich, eggy panna cotta, and some of the best tiramisu in town. $$-$$$

The Local Butcher Shop

1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6328. Set in the tony Gourmet Ghetto, The Local Butcher Shop is among a vanguard of new shops working exclusively with whole animals — no prepackaged cuts. All of the meat is pasture-raised and comes from within a 150-mile radius of Berkeley. With access to such first-rate meat, it's no surprise that the lunchtime sandwich program is also excellent. Every day, Kel Troughton, the shop's full-time sandwich chef, creates a single sandwich option based on what's in season. And it's always something different, so you could go an entire year without eating the same thing twice. The shop's moist, full-flavored roast beef is worth making a special detour — but really, whether you're talking Pork Milanese or roasted black-pepper pork, there isn't a bad sandwich to be had. $

Star Meats

3068 Claremont Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-7788. Located in back of Star Grocery, Star Meats is an independently run old-school butcher shop that sells exclusively hormone- and antibiotic-free meat. Among the shop's many virtues, neighborhood folks are especially fond of the stellar lunchtime sandwich menu. In particular, don't miss the Fat Albert, a generous portion of rare house-roasted Niman Ranch top round, cheddar, and arugula, served on a La Farine rustic baguette. The kicker: a dollop of smoky chipotle mayo. Even though the roast beef is the only deli meat that's cooked in-house, other sandwiches — like the Goodfella (a riff on a classic Italian sub) and the off-menu Dirty Bird (turkey, pastrami, curry garlic aioli) — are well worth checking out. $

Rio California

1234 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, 510-834-2565. This Brazilian lunch spot, located on the first floor of a restored Victorian that sits within spitting distance of I-980, is one of Oakland's best-kept secrets. Ney Araujo, the Rio California's gregarious chef-owner, opened the cafe in the late Nineties, offering an affordable lunch option for employees of the dozens of nonprofits in Preservation Park — and for whoever else cares to come. Araujo's mayo-heavy salad-based sandwiches are classic Rio de Janeiro beach fare, while his impeccably grilled jerk chicken offers an unexpected taste of Jamaica. Don't miss the *feijoada*, a black-bean stew that is Brazil's national dish — for good reason, you'll conclude, after tasting Araujo's complex, savory version. The sprawling, shady outdoor patio makes for as peaceful a lunch spot as you'll find downtown. $-$$

Portal

1611 2nd Ave., Oakland, 510-663-7678. The best thing about Portal, a veggie-centric restaurant and beer garden a stone's throw from Oakland's Lake Merritt, is its casual air — how the lovely back patio evokes lazy summer evenings spent hanging out on a friend's backyard deck, nursing cold beers and snacking on plates of munchies. On busy nights the service can be spotty, and the portion sizes don't always offer the best bang for your buck. But, aside from the setting, Portal's chief virtue is the wholesomeness of its locally sourced and (mostly) organic, vegetable-heavy pub grub — a welcome change for vegetarians tired of going to bars where the only thing they can eat is (maybe) the fries. Standouts include the homemade pasta and the "garbage bread" (a doughy riff on stromboli), both of which vary depending on what's in season. $$-$$$

Scends

3620 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0288. Scend's serves up the food we Americans turn to for solace, all of it deep-fried. You can order an infinite combination of breaded oysters, moist snapper and catfish dusted with cornmeal, and crispy chicken wings and shrimp. Pass by the side of red beans and rice in favor of the Bay seasoning-dusted fries and creamy potato salad. $$

Smokey J's Q House

3015 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-8442. A barbecue revival hit the Bay Area hard at the dawn of 2011, but in some ways, Josh Kemper's South Berkeley 'cue house is a throwback to classic East Bay shops like Everett and Jones and the shuttered Flint's — places serving up half a dozen types of smoked meats reflecting a variety of barbecue styles. The ribs are infused with sweet-tasting mesquite smoke, the brisket is capable of a fierce crust the color of black coffee, and the Frito Pie — Kemper's nod to Texas trailer-park cooking — is actually good. Best of all, the meats are savory enough to make Kemper's house-made Kansas City-style barbecue sauce purely optional. $

Souley Vegan

301 Broadway, Oakland, 510-922-1615. At this oasis in the gritty heart of Downtown Oakland, Tamearra Dyson's barbecued tofu, cheeseless cheesecake, cheeseless macaroni and cheese, tender corn on the cob, and fresh fruit blends create a sophisticated richness that flesh-eaters and even old-school vegetarians would say have no business being this far from bacon and Crisco. A lifelong vegetarian and a vegan since age sixteen, Oakland native Dyson started with a catering company and a booth in local farmers' markets before opening this small storefront restaurant in June 2008. Inside a wrinkly, peppery cornmeal-batter blanket half an inch thick and fried in olive oil, the crispy tofu served here as a side dish or in a burger brings back fond memories of fried fish. Without the fish. Remember those funky hole-in-the-wall where, when you were a carnivore, you walked right in and just chowed down? Well, this is one of those. $$

Wing Town Cafe

1462 High St., Oakland, 510-842-2310. A small, family-owned wingery tucked into a ramshackle shopping plaza anchored by a *Mi Pueblo* supermarket. They may not offer pasture-raised, organic meat here, but the fresh-not-frozen chicken doesn't give off any strange chemical aromas. The meat runs a little dry, but the skin has a pronounced crispness, lightly browned on the edges. Lemon pepper is the top seller, but the hot wing is solid, and the house wing, "Oooh Weee!!" is a custom blonde Cajun sauce, a thick [illegible] barbecue, and a bit of garlic: interesting if not entirely successful. $

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50

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AUTHENTICITY IS OVERRATED

Hopscotch may look like a diner, but its drinks are fancy — and that's not a bad thing.

By Ellen Cushing

The best diner in the known universe is a place called the Modern Diner, a wood-paneled, neon-signed, time-battered Sterling Streamliner that's been stationed since 1941 on a slow stretch of Main Street in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. At the Modern, the air is thick with grease and the floor sticky with spilled syrup; the coffee is a little burnt but still somehow magically bone-warming. The bar has only the bones and exactly nothing more. Like the best diners, it is wholly competent but totally, willfully unexceptional. In college, my friends and I piled into a Zipcar and drove there through the industrial, early-morning grayness of New England for fried eggs and coffee before morning classes; to this day, I miss it fiercely.

Hopscotch has brown-and-tan checkered tile floors and red pleather stools and a steak-and-eggs breakfast entrée, but it is not really a diner. The counter is marble instead of linoleum and the wings come with chili miso sauce and the blog buzz is deafening and the food and drinks are really, really good; there is a certain ambition that runs completely counter to the diner ethos. But Hopscotch is patently not trying to be a diner, not even one of those upscale ones — it's a nice bar-restaurant with cloth napkins and all that aforementioned buzz. The food is gently Japanese-inflected; the popular drinks program focuses heavily on beer and whiskey and elegant retoolings of classic cocktails. The coffee is probably never burnt and the bar has all the basics and then some: obscure Asian scotches, Asahi on tap, shiny equipment, dapper bartenders, a menu that occasionally spells "rum" the fancy way, "rhum." It is a sleek place where cocktails run $9 to $12 apiece. It is approximately seventeen bajillion times hipper than the Modern.

But on a cold Sunday night, with Aretha swooning on the sound system and hints of condensation lacing the windows, authenticity feels overrated, or at least fluid. The family in the corner has just been reunited, the little ones happily playing with their food while the grownups grouse good-naturedly about jet lag. Jenny, one of the owners, greets everyone, squeezing through the narrow space with the grace of someone who's been doing this for awhile. The Maple Old Fashioned is just rye, a splash each of maple syrup and bitters, and nothing else, served amber and autumnal over ice. It is smokier and less sweet than a lot of Old Fashioneds, a little tannic even, in a good way — cool but yet, somehow, bone-warming. ●

Hopscotch: 1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
HopscotchOakland.com
Hours: Sun. 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Tue.-Thur. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

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Farmstead Wine Tasting Hosted by Farmstead's knowledgeable staff, with all proceeds going to local schools. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2-5 p.m.; $5 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 3018 La Sante Ave., Oakland. 510-654-3401. FarmsteadCheesesandwines.com.

From Page to Table Food photographers Alana Doat and Sandy Roam unveil their new cookbook. The Laney culinary department will also present some of their recipes. Fri., Nov. 16, 12-1:30 p.m. free. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-834-0748, 510-464-3210. Laney.peralta.edu.

Meet the Brewer with Speakeasy! A night with the brewers of Speakeasy. Wed., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. free. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. BeerRevolution.com.

Street Food Tuesdays With food truck-inspired small plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, $3-$8. 510-551-7284. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-549-8585. ParagonRestaurant.com.

Vintage Berkeley Wines Tasting Try five wines at its both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook earlier in the day for details on what bottles will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-8600.

Wine Down Featuring Tudal, food, and wine. Sat., Nov. 17, 6-8 p.m. $10. Cerruti Cellars, 100 Webster St., Oakland. 510-550-7600. CerrutiCellars.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm Fresh Market Community Produce Stand Lewis Farm Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Fifty Ninth Bayside Berkeley for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1463. BAHIA.ac.com.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15058 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

BFH Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Wy., Berkeley. 510-845-9010. BYA@byaway.org.

Frances Albrier Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CityofBerkeley.CA.US.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and pesticide-free fruit, vegetables, bread products, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-535-6920. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-8000. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market hosts more than 70 produce, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 800-949-3276. SpinnerFed.org/farmersmarket. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-338-7278. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 30 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4300. CI.Hayward.CA.US.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Pridmore Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Pridmore, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, and organic Produce; plus free produce, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 510-847-0608. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Market Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from AP Organic Farms and a youth-led prepared food booth called the People Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 510-482-1830. JustCommunityCulture.org. Laurel District Farmers' Market, #173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Two parking at Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers-market. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With brands, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 12-2 p.m. free. 510-250-2957. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland Phat N' Farmers' Market With a healthy cafe and commercial kitchen space, seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and flea market goods. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Phat Town Growing Farmers' Market, 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Produce Community Produce Stand With organic local produce, free samples, and cooking demonstrations. Wednesdays, 2:30-5 p.m. Continues through June 21. Free. St. Martin de Porres School. 675-4131.51. Produce. 510-652-2220. SIMDP.org.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Produce, seasonal products, breads, oils and other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pasta, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 99 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Produce Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, leafy greens, flowers, eggs, and other produce. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of other agricultural and dairy products from local farmers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 510-236-4048. RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 12th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh organic produce, breads, specialty foods and more for sale plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2180 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CI.Berkeley.CA.US.

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2 p.m.-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd sts., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers' market, seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty bread, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby and Adeline streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

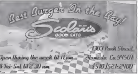
Youth-Led Farm Stand The fresh farm stand, at the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood, features seasonal produce from regional farmers and select urban gardens, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10700 MacArthur Blvd., Berkeley. Mondays, 3-6 p.m. free. FoodCommunityCulture.org.

Submissions for calendar listings should be emailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

PICK

Wine Down

Now in its fifth decade, the Napa Valley's family-owned Tudal Winery produces limited-edition fine wines. Sample some at the winery's Jack London Square outpost Cerruti Cellars (100 Webster St., Ste. 100, Oakland), where a "Wine Down" gala on Saturday, Nov. 17, features Hooker Blanc Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2011, Flatbed Red North Coast Zinfandel 2010, Tractor Red Shed 2009, and an appetizer buffet prepared by Oakland-based Blue Heron Catering. Singer-guitarist K.L. Nicholas entertains. 6 p.m., $20-$25. 510-544-4233 or AlamedaSocialClub.com — *Anneli Rufus*



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POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Lincoln saves the nation. James Bond's villain rescues the franchise (*Skyfall*)

By Kelly Vance

Daniel Day-Lewis delivers [illegible] compelling performance [illegible]

Lincoln freed the slaves. That's how the sixteenth President of the United States is generally remembered — despite latter-day efforts to politically diminish that accomplishment — and how he probably should be remembered.

Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln* ambitiously, soberly attempts to take us behind the scenes of Abraham Lincoln's momentous last months, to put such events as the Civil War and the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment, an elaboration of the Emancipation Proclamation, in some sort of digestible perspective. Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner no doubt realize that history is one of America's least favorite subjects, but they're on a mission from god, so to speak, to give Honest Abe's legacy the *War Horse*/*Munich*/*Saving Private Ryan* treatment — the full Spielberg with all the trimmings.

By now audiences are well aware what to expect when Spielberg is wearing his schoolmaster robes. It should come as no surprise that *Lincoln* is hard to fault on its individual moments, but that over the course of two and a half hours it's exactly like medicine going down: good for us, surely, but nothing anyone would want to swallow for the joy of it, despite a mesmerizing performance by Daniel Day-Lewis in the title role.

Still, moviegoers willing to surrender to a time-machine trip back to muddy, unpaved Washington, DC in 1865 may discover a few unexpected points of view. For instance, that the Union was far more fractured than it is today, even taking into consideration the War Between the States. In 1865, Lincoln's Republican party had the task of fighting the Confederacy while herding anti-slavery abolitionists and GOP "radicals" like Rep. Thaddeus Stevens (gleefully played by Tommy Lee Jones) into an uneasy consensus on how to win the war, stop the slaughter (600,000 dead in four years of war), heal the bitterness, and patch up the nation.

The movie goes into laborious detail on the political maneuvering behind the upcoming vote on the anti-slavery amendment, not all of it dry. Twenty-first-century viewers may gasp to hear the raucous debates in the House, where New York City Democrats like Lincoln-hater Fernando Wood (Lee Pace) openly orate about the "niggerization" of the country and the Congressmen (they're all male, white, and whiskered) compete in insulting each other. Racism was the rule then rather than the exception. Lincoln is shown trying to walk a tightrope between ending slavery and granting the four million freed blacks any civil rights at all. The "people," North or South, generally loathed the concept of racial equality as much as the one about giving women the right to vote. In the meantime, Yankees and Johnny Rebs are shown in fierce hand-to-hand combat on the battlefield.

Lincoln

Directed by Steven Spielberg. With Daniel Day-Lewis and Sally Field. Opens Friday.

Skyfall

Directed by Sam Mendes. With Daniel Craig and Judi Dench. Now playing.

So America was a complete mess. Luckily we had Lincoln, the lanky, folksy country lawyer — he tells stories like Jefferson Smith in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* — who spends much of his time listening to ordinary soldiers, frontier settlers, his war-hawk Secretary of State William Seward (David Strathairn), his sons (Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Gulliver McGrath), and his holy terror of a wife, Mary Todd "Molly" Lincoln (Sally Field). Chameleon par excellence Day-Lewis resembles photos of the actual Lincoln more than almost any screen actor who has played the part, and he projects the moral conscience we associate with the man, using his power to achieve a rough social justice as well as peace, all the while wrestling with his own doubts.

Every nook and cranny in the movie is filled with colorful characters played by furiously hamming actors. James Spader, John Hawkes, and Tim Blake Nelson provide welcome comic relief as a trio of con men/political fixers assigned by the White House to pass out pork-barrel deals to congressmen in exchange for "yes" votes. All Hal Holbrook (as a Lincoln advisor) has to do is show his face and we're instantly back in the 19th century. Jared Harris, Jackie Earle Haley, Bruce McGill, Michael Stuhlbarg, and David Oyelowo turn up as, respectively, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, a wayfaring Confederate official, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, Rep. George Yeaman, and Corporal Ira Clark, a member of a Colored Regiment of the US Army.

Our first reaction is: History Channel all the way. Spielberg doesn't spare the obvious John Ford touches nor his usual overstatement. But Day-Lewis works on us like a boxer slipping in punches, wearing us down, in a portrait of an idealist facing more trouble than any chief executive before or since. We end up believing in the actor, in Lincoln himself, and in his mission — if not exactly the self-imposed pomp and circumstance of the history lesson. The bad old days were awful enough all by themselves.

The quality of a James Bond movie varies in direct proportion to that of its villain. Try this little test: Think of your favorite Bond adversary, then match him or her to the corresponding actor who played 007. Everyone remembers Oddjob, Jaws, Auric Goldfinger, and the durable Ernst Stavro Blofeld — a few may even name Rosa Klebb or Le Chiffre — but try to recall exactly which James Bond they bedeviled. Sean Connery? Roger Moore? Pierce Brosnan? Peter Sellers? Bonds may come and go, but demons are forever.

The Bond franchise celebrates its fiftieth year with the release of Sam Mendes' *Skyfall*. It's the best recent 007 film largely because of Javier Bardem's performance as Silva, the fake-blond, effeminate, loquacious, eternally vengeful ex-British Secret Service who has it in for Bond (Daniel Craig, his third go-round) but especially M (Judi Dench), the MI6 boss. Bardem's winks, nods, and moues immediately catapult Silva to the top echelon of Bondian baddies. That the evil mastermind apparently has a playful crush on our hero, especially when 007 is tied up, only adds flavor to what is essentially a rather dour tale of growing old: Bond, M, the whole world-domination game, etc.

Roger Deakins' cinematography and the visuals in general are astounding. If the aerial shot of Shanghai at night really is that city without CGI enhancements, it puts 99 percent of film fantasy locations to shame. Silva and the spectacular image-making breathe new life into the old firm. Bond-age has rarely been so much fun. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

Holy Motors Leos Carax, maker of *Pola X* and the [illegible] episode of the *Tokyo!* anthology, [illegible] (K.V.)

Lincoln [illegible] Steven Spielberg's [illegible] Daniel Day-Lewis' performance [illegible] the title role. [illegible] Tommy Lee Jones, David Strathairn, Sally Field, James Spader, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, John Hawkes, Jared Harris, Jackie Earle Haley, [illegible] Spielberg doesn't spare the obvious John Ford touches nor his usual overstatement, but it's Day-Lewis' Lincoln that makes the difference. [illegible] (150 min.) (K.V.)

A Royal Affair [illegible]

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 [illegible] Robert Pattinson, and Taylor Lautner. (115 min.)

ONGOING

[illegible] Directed by Rob Cohen, adapted by Marc Moss and Kerry Williamson from James Patterson's novel; also starring Tyler Perry. (101 min.)

Argo Ben Affleck's [illegible] 1979-80 US Embassy [illegible] Iran, courtesy actor-director Affleck, who casts himself as a disgruntled CIA "exfil" specialist with a daring plan to rescue six American Embassy

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below staffers who escaped rampaging hordes of Islamist [illegible] in Tehran, and then to smuggle them out of the country disguised as a Hollywood film crew [illegible] movie made *Argo*. Writer Chris Terrio's screenplay [illegible] *Wired* magazine [illegible] the [illegible] with more of the humor [illegible] the Goodman and Alan Arkin [illegible] (120 min.) (KV)

The Bay [illegible] Barry Levinson [illegible] *The Bay* [illegible] (85 min.) (KV)

Beasts of the Southern Wild [illegible] by filmmaker Benh Zeitlin. Six-year-old Hushpuppy [illegible] Quvenzhané Wallis) and her [illegible] Wink (Dwight Henry) [illegible] Louisiana Gulf Coast [illegible] the Bathtub [illegible] adapted by Zeitlin and Lucy Alibar from the latter's stage play *Juicy & Delicious* [illegible] (91 min.) (KV)

Cloud Atlas Co-directors/co-adapters Tom Tykwer, Lana Wachowski, and Andy Wachowski [illegible] Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent [illegible] Hugo Weaving, Hugh Grant [illegible] Susan Sarandon [illegible] (172 min.) (KV)

End of Watch Los Angeles police officers [illegible] by filmmaker David Ayer [illegible] (Jake Gyllenhaal) and his partner Zavala (Michael Peña) [illegible] South Central [illegible] LAPD movies (*Colors*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Rampart*) [illegible] *Training Day*, *Dark Blue*, *Harsh Times*, *Street Kings*) [illegible] Anna Kendrick [illegible] (109 min.) (KV)

The Flat Israeli [illegible] Arnon Goldfinger's [illegible] documentary [illegible] Tel Aviv apartment [illegible] Goldfinger [illegible] German-Jewish [illegible] with a German Nazi official, a high-ranking SS [illegible] The Israeli-German production is written and directed by Goldfinger. (97 min.) (KV)

Flight Even though the first [illegible] Whip Whitaker, pilot of the plane in question (Denzel Washington), and Nicole (Kelly Reilly), the [illegible] hospital [illegible]

[illegible] Washington's [illegible] 2000's *Cast Away*. Don Cheadle, John Goodman, Bruce Greenwood, and Tamara Tunie [illegible] (142 min.) (KV)

Frankenweenie [illegible] "typical" Tim Burton movie [illegible] black-and-white animated

fantasy [illegible] expansion of a 1984 Burton short [illegible] John August's screenplay [illegible] Catherine O'Hara, Martin Short, Martin Landau, Winona Ryder [illegible] and Charlie Tahan as [illegible] Everything the perfect "family horror" [illegible]

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should be (87 min.) (K.V.)

Fun Size [illegible]

Here Comes the Boom Kevin James stars as a washed-up schoolteacher [illegible] (105 min.)

Hotel Transylvania It's a [illegible]

visuals were obviously inspired by the work of Tim Burton; the story line is the same as any [illegible] Perfectly tolerable [illegible] (92 min.) (K.V.)

The Intouchables Take the basic premise of Driving Miss Daisy and move it to contemporary Paris. [illegible] (112 min.) (K.V.)

A Late Quartet [illegible]

The Loneliest Planet [illegible]

wilderness. [illegible] (113 min.) (K.V.)

Looper Looper — [illegible] (118 min.)

Lore [illegible]

The Man with the Iron Fists RZA (yes, that RZA, of Wu-Tang fame) [illegible]

The Master It's the end of World War II and [illegible]

explosions and [illegible] (137 min.)

The Other Son [illegible]

[illegible] (113 min.) (K.V.)

Paranormal Activity 4 A fourth installment of the horror movie franchise [illegible]

The Perks of Being a Wallflower [illegible] (103 min.) (K.V.)

Pitch Perfect [illegible] (112 min.)

Searching for Sugar Man Documentary [illegible] (86 min.)

The Sessions John Hawkes [illegible] (95 min.) (K.V.)

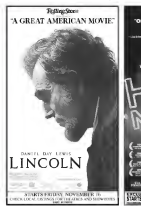
Seven Psychopaths Martin McDonagh [illegible] (109 min.) (K.V.)

Sinister [illegible] (110 min.)

Skyfall [illegible] (143 min.) (K.V.)

Taken 2 Sequel to the 2008 [illegible] (91 min.)

This Must Be the Place [illegible]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Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

[illegible] Paolo Sorrentino and his screenwriter, Umberto Contarello, [illegible] Frances McDormand and Judd Hirsch. See it if you must, but be sure to give this [illegible] story [illegible] (118 min.) (KV)

[illegible] Waiting Room For hard-edged documentary [illegible] Peter Nicks. Told in a fly-on-the-wall [illegible] style, the [illegible] what takes place on a regular day [illegible] emergency room [illegible] of Oakland's Highland Hospital; everyone [illegible] hours, sleep [illegible], and a very worried and. The hospital is filled to the max, and by regulation no new people can be admitted until a nurse leaves. There are [illegible] doctors, [illegible] assistants, [illegible] "The ER is not the place to manage someone's overall people." [illegible] "We keep people overnight, just as much for their social [illegible]" Recommended. (80 min.) (KV)

Wreck-It Ralph Disney's big animated holiday [illegible] video-game villain who hopes to turn his life around. [illegible] by Rich Moore, written by Phil Johnston; starring the voices of John C. Reilly, Jane Lynch, and Sarah Silverman. (108 min.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

[illegible] (83 min., 2011). Elmwood, 7:00.

Big Boys Gone Bananas! (88 min., 2012). San Francisco Documentary Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 9:30)

[illegible] (53 min., 2011). [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, 6:00)

[illegible] (80 min., 2012). ([illegible] Hall, 9:00)

[illegible] (270 min. total running time). Screening of several short films. (Grand Lake Theater, 5:00)

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide (2012). ([illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union, UC Berkeley, 2:00)

[illegible] (87 min., 2012). San Francisco Documentary Festival (Shattuck Cinemas, 7:15)

[illegible] (115 min., [illegible]). ([illegible] Berkeley, 8:00)

Shooting Beauty (80 min., 2008). (137 Stanley Hall, UC Berkeley, 6:00)

Why Is Yellow the Middle of the Rainbow? (174 min., 1980-1994). In English and Tagalog. With Q&A and [illegible] and Kidlat Tahimik. Afterimage: The Films of Kidlat Tahimik, Indigenous (PFA, 7:00)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

A Girl Without a Cat (80 min., 1980/2001). In French, Spanish, and other languages with English voice-over and subtitles. At [illegible]: A Tribute to Chris Marker, 1921-2012 (PFA, 7:00)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

[illegible] (89 min., 2011). [illegible] Theater, [illegible]

The [illegible] (108 min., 1939). In French and English subtitles. [illegible] French Cinema Classics, 1928-1960 (PFA, 6:30)

Turumba (95 min., 1983). In Tagalog with English subtitles. With Kidlat Tahimik in person. Afterimage: The Films of Kidlat Tahimik, Indigenous (PFA, 8:40)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

[illegible] (71 min., 1931). [illegible] accompaniment. (Humanist Hall, 7:30)

Kidlat and Abroad with Kidlat Tahimik (87 min. total running time, 1990-2006). Screening [illegible] and Kidlat Tahimik in person. Afterimage: The Films of Kidlat Tahimik, Indigenous (PFA, 2:00)

Memories of Overdevelopment and [illegible] Summers of a Filipino Residency (74 min. total running time, 1980-2011). With Kidlat Tahimik in person. Afterimage: The Films of Kidlat Tahimik, Indigenous (PFA, 5:00)

Wattled (63 min., 2012). Followed by a Q&A and [illegible] members and [illegible] (Cal Theatre, 3:00)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

[illegible] (83 min., 2011). El Cerrito, 7:00.

[illegible] (112 min., 2003). Monday Night Fights (Canfield Lecture Hall, [illegible] College, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

[illegible] (65 min., 2012). (Doe Library, UC Berkeley, noon)

[illegible] Germs and Steel, Episode 2 (55 min., 2005). (Humanist Hall, 7:30)

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ARGO (R)
FRI-TUES: 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 9:45
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GONE TO THE DARK SIDE

Oakland's Some Ember and The Soft Moon turn personal exploration into darkwave

By Glenn Jackson

Some Ember's Dylan Travis says technology has made us start to occupy a different psychic space. [illegible]

Long a staple of underground music, darker and heavier music has steadily been on the rise since the 2008 recession. One need look no further than the success of London's Tri Angle Records — whose stable of artists emphasize the more ominous side of electronic music — and the current crop of grim styles from indie music darlings such as Balam Acab and Andy Stott. One could even find a parallel movement in the exploding electronic dance music (EDM) world, where the sinister and bombastic bass of mutated dubstep reigns supreme. Be it the influence of the economy or technology (or more likely a combination of both), dense and shadowy sounds have become a dominant theme within a wide variety of electronic music. The Bay Area has become a hotbed for this sonic evolution, best heard in Oakland's Some Ember and The Soft Moon, which released its sophomore album *Zeroes* on October 30.

"It comes from a certain time that's relevant again for some reason," said Dylan Travis, the producer behind Some Ember, a darkwave project from the former Man/Miracle frontman. "I just think about the amount of our lives that is spent staring at a computer screen and how that quotient is rising, and I think it makes us start to occupy a different, more technological psychic space."

Some Ember — whose music Travis largely produces on his own and then translates to an intense live performance with a full backing band — is not alone in connecting personal and cultural expressions to dark textures. While the term "darkwave" is rather amorphous (essentially boiling down to a hybrid of post-punk — pioneered by bands such as Joy Division — and electronic, synthesizer-heavy pop), there are a number of East Bay bands that could fall under the umbrella. Uncanny Valley offers up a partially psychedelic brand of twisted synth pop propped up by the steady pulse of programmed drums. Metal Mother follows a similar path but with an extra infusion of layered orchestration, and Black Jeans takes its cues from hardware-style techno and adds monstrous vocals. San Francisco bands of a similar vein include Group Rhoda and Chasms, plus the more established oOoOO and Water Borders, both of which have releases on Tri Angle Records. While many of these bands have crossed paths (Some Ember, Black Jeans, Chasms, and Uncanny Valley all recently shared bills together), it may be too soon to proclaim a "darkwave scene," but the Bay Area — in particular Oakland — appears to be well on its way to a tangible musical movement.

Some Ember's path to its current state is somewhat unique. Until late last year, Travis led one of the East Bay's more adventurous and successful indie-rock outfits, Man/Miracle, but toward the end of completing the band's second album, Travis abruptly ended the effort. He said he was simply ready for a change. Frustrated with the lengthy recording process and the lack of creative control being in a four-piece band necessitates, Travis began self-producing songs on his laptop with a pirated copy of Ableton Live that would eventually become Some Ember's debut record, *Hotel of Lost Light*.

"I desired more control and less bureaucracy," Travis said when asked about his decision to start making his own music, but added half-jokingly, "That's just the asshole answer."

Travis' choice was also due in part to economic reasons, as he quickly listed the factors that currently contribute to the decaying state of traditional bands: the cost of renting practice spaces and touring, and the time required to record and release a record. Above all, Travis said he preferred the results of creating music on his own.

"I had been making music on my computer that I thought was better than what I had been doing even in a full studio," Travis explained. "And I just liked the process more. If you're producing in Ableton, by the time your creative process is over, the track is also done and you can hit save and move on."

While the musical projects are not directly related, Some Ember and The Soft Moon have a lot of parallels. The latter is headed by Luis Vasquez and has spread far beyond its Oakland roots to become one of darkwave's most successful local stories. Both Some Ember and The Soft Moon are deeply personal solo projects that are reimagined into vivid live performances with the help of musical collaborators, and both creators claim to not have initially landed on their eerie and intimate sound entirely on purpose.

"It was always searching for something I connected with," Vasquez said. "I had tried many different genres over the past twelve years — acoustic stuff, weird electronic music — and it just took me some time to come up with a sound and a formula that really spoke to me."

That exploration ultimately ended up taking shape as a poignant combination of twisted synthscapes, propulsive drum-machine beats, and obscured vocals, which Vasquez landed on as part of an experiment to explore himself through music. His 2010 debut, *The Soft Moon*, is a collection of strange, synth-driven pop songs that sound like a more personal and demented take on Bauhaus, New Order, or the avant-garde moments of The Cure. The follow-up to 2011's *Total Decay* EP, *Zeroes* is a continuation of Vasquez's now-established style.

"I just wanted this record to feel similar to the first record, but more focused and more sharp, more conceptual," Vasquez explained. "I wasn't prepared to really take [the idea] out much further or evolve too quickly."

Still, *Zeroes* does take some steps forward, particularly in its sense of urgency. Like previous releases, the new album is darkly introspective, but it is also unrelentingly propulsive — Vasquez sounds as if he were pushing through the fear to deliver a haunting message, one wrapped in industrial rhythms and with details obscured beyond the point of recognition by the singer's own murky vocals. On *Zeroes*, the prominence of synthesizers is again at the heart of The Soft Moon's sound, providing the growling tones and hiss-laden leads that fray the edges of each song. Vasquez admitted that this aspect of his production was more a matter of timing and curiosity than anything else, having purchased his first synthesizer just prior to writing his debut album. "When I first started The Soft Moon, it was pretty much the first time I had used synthesizers in my own music," Vasquez said. "I happened to be really intrigued by them at the time, and I just wanted that instrument because it was something I had never used before."

Accidental or not, Vasquez and Travis both stumbled upon a style that can come off as cold and distant and transformed it into a personal expression that holds the listener close. If the trend toward ominous electronic music persists, the Bay Area's like-minded crafters of darkwave have a high bar to aspire to. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MASTERING THE HARP AND THE HUSTLE

At fifty, Destiny Muhammad reflects on her twenty-year career.

By Whitney Phaneuf

Destiny Muhammad and I are sitting side-by-side at downtown Oakland's Awaken Café. Muhammad has black dreads dotted by a few white hairs and wears a flowing silk blouse. My hair is dyed black, with thick bangs, and I'm wearing a T-shirt, jeans, and Converse. Demographically, we represent an Oakland in flux.

"What's that you called it?" Muhammad asked.

"Gentrification," I replied.

"Yeah that. Well, I call it opportunity."

Muhammad attended high school a few miles from where I was born, around the same time, the late Seventies, in the South Bay of Southern California. She lived in housing projects and took public transit — three buses she said — to be one of four African-American students attending Torrance High School.

"You know I'm 'bout to work that system," Muhammad said.

It's the unofficial theme of Muhammad's life. A classical and jazz harpist who celebrates her fiftieth birthday and twenty years as a musician in a concert on Sunday, November 18 at The Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, she began her career playing for tips at Bay Area farmers' markets with only four songs in her repertoire. "I pimped that idea," she said, proudly.

The oldest in her family, Muhammad went to cosmetology school after she graduated high school and opened a barbershop in her hometown of San Pedro. While she excelled in high school music classes, mostly as a singer, she dedicated herself to working, all the while knowing the instrument she wanted to play despite having never seen it in person. As a young girl, she watched Harpo Marx play a harp on television and it stuck with her — the graceful curves and delicate sound from the large string instrument. By the time the harp reappeared in her life, Muhammad was thirty, managing the barbershop with her mom. The best friend of her then boyfriend built harps, and when she walked into his studio the attraction was too strong to shake.

"It was the return of the harp dream," Muhammad recalled. "I kept thinking, 'Why do I feel this way?'" Eventually she gave in and bought a harp with no idea how to play it. She took lessons from a woman who first denied her, saying she only taught children.

"There I was, thirty years old, learning 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,'" Muhammad said, adding that some of her most formative life experiences began with those harp lessons. "When I started playing harp, I had friends who said, 'You too old, you too black, and we don't do that.' I said, 'Click, don't call me no more.'"

Raymond Hall Jabari

Destiny Muhammad started playing harp at age thirty.

When Muhammad moved to Alameda in 1994, a few years after she started playing harp, she worked odd jobs in between practicing Celtic folk and classical harp songs at farmers' markets. Playing for free led to a decade of paying gigs at coffeehouses, restaurants, and private parties. It also accidentally led her to jazz, a style she had always wanted to play. Khalil Shaheed, the founder of Oakland's Oaktown Jazz Workshops, heard Muhammad at a market and invited her to a jam session.

"Those folks ran all over me," she said. "There was a lot of clapping and laughing, and I really didn't know what was happening. When I walked out I said, 'One day, I will write you all a check for playing with me.'" Muhammad spent three years studying with Shaheed — "I became his oldest student," she said — and that's when she learned the roots of jazz.

Jazz harpists, the few that have existed, have historically struggled for acceptance. In the Sixties, Dorothy Ashby changed the image of the harp from a cute and sweet classical accent within jazz expression to an integral component of song structure. The harp can be played softly, replacing a piano's lush features, or hard, adding percussion to uptempo bebop. Other jazz harpists included Adele Girard, who was married to clarinetist Joe Marsala, and Alice Coltrane, widow of saxophonist John Coltrane — both accepted in part because they were the wives of traditional jazz musicians.

Muhammad also struggled to evolve past her community-embraced "harpist from the hood" image to that of a serious jazz artist. She spent three years studying under Shaheed, and by 2008, local saxophonist Richard Howell changed his quartet to a quintet to accommodate her. Last year she headlined The Jazz Heritage Center's "Women in Jazz" concert. Her birthday concert will feature the caliber of musicians Muhammad once vowed to write checks to, including Blue Note artist Eddie Gale and bassist Ken Okada. Muhammad is working on an album of original music and planning a Dorothy Ashby tribute album, in between teaching private harp lessons and being a lifelong student herself.

"I'll be learning till I jump off the planet," Muhammad said. "The opportunities are so vast. Once you see it, you got to get your hustle on." ●

Whitney.Phaneuf@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Destiny Muhammad's 50/20 happens at The Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts (1428 Alice St. Oakland) on Sunday, Nov. 18, 3 p.m., $25. MCCATheater.com

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CD REVIEWS

GUTS, NOT ALL GLORIOUS

These local artists attempt new styles to varied success.

Social Studies

Developer

Like dream pop duo Beach House, Social Studies employs throaty female vocals, sweeping melodies, and gloomy synths to build drama. But on its sophomore album *Developer*, Social Studies adds moaning guitars and rock percussion. The result is an unapologetically indulgent album with meticulous arrangements — no doubt the influence of tUnE-yArDs producer Eli Crews.

On previous releases, Social Studies struggled to evolve beyond post-college emoting. The band also endured many lineup changes, most significantly when two of its founding members left to form Mass Haus. Only lead singer Natalia Rogovin and original drummer Michael Jirkovsky remain, and the addition of three new members seems to give Social Studies permission to take risks.

The new iteration of the band is as bold and confrontational as the steady drumbeat in lead single "Terrenear," and each instrument, including Rogovin's husky voice, exudes a newfound confidence. "Paint" begins with commanding lyrics, shifts into a wall of synth, guitar, and drums, dials back to vocals and simple percussion, and culminates into a hooky synth-pop chorus. The similarly structured "Western Addition" has an equally catchy chorus, but ends with a guitar solo straight out of a rock song. "Stars" opts for a droning, organ-driven melody while warm guitars whir in the background.

When production is this sharp and decisive, even dreaminess manages to sound grounded, ensuring *Developer* doesn't indulge so much as to get lost. (Antenna Farm)

— *Whitney Phaneuf*

E-40 and Too $hort

History: Mob Music and Function Music

Pounding codeine, seeing strippers, checkin' hos and twerkin': Bay Area heavyweights E-40 and Too $hort are back with a new two-album collaboration, *History: Mob Music and Function Music*. Both albums offer the characteristic brooding synths, trunk-rattling bass, and West Coast hyphy sound that made the rappers legends. However, perhaps seeking to appeal to a wider audience, the two albums — *Function Music* for the new era and *Mob Music* for the old school fans — inherently point to E-40 and Too $hort's inability to use their combined fifty years of hip-hop knowledge to create something worthy of two releases.

It is ironically the duo's attempt to do something fresh on *Function Music* that sounds the most stale. "Say I" is the fun, sugary pop club drop that's bound to make it to Top 40 radio. "Slide Through" is minimal but catchy, mixing mid-tempo ass-popping bass with a freestyling mixtape feel. These tracks notwithstanding, the rest of the album is filled with missteps — unimaginative hooks, one-dimensional, tinny beats, and stilted cadences.

Mob Music, however, is a rich, dirty throwback and the better half of the two albums. "Ride with Me" and "Do You Remember?" restore old school values — clever verses, booming kicks, stoned synths — to new hip-hop beats. Too $hort's laid-back, orgasmic flow is cream to E-40's black coffee of frenetic, rapid-fire verses. It's all the banging bass, lyrical stamina, and retro G-funk beats expected from these two.

Ultimately, *History: Mob Music and Function Music* suffers from the same problem that plagues most double albums: It's loose and unedited, but could have been pared down into something truly great. *Mob Music*, although solid, serves as a reminder that history repeats itself. And *Function* becomes exactly what it professes to be: history. (Heavy on the Grind/EMI)

— *Jose Batten*

Cello Joe with Narayan from Zion

Aesthetes

Musicians must learn how to swim if they choose to enter the flooded market of electronic dance music (EDM). It takes a fresh idea to stand out among the overlapping rhythms and all-too-familiar pulsing beats.

On *Aesthetes*, Berkeley's own beat-boxing cellist Joey Chang pairs with Sebastopol-based producer Narayan from Zion to prove an electronic voyage can ride along the strings of a cello. It's comparable to Emancipator's joint effort with Russian violinist Ilya Goldberg, which combined club beats with a classical symphonic sound.

Aesthetes succeeds, in part, because the refreshing sounds of a real instrument breathe on every track. "Mischief Kids" appropriately introduces the work by asking the listener to dance to its merry melodies. As the album evolves, downtempo beats harmonize with soothing cello grooves to set the mood for "Beethoven's Fifth Spaceship Ride." *Aesthetes'* vibe morphs once again into a happy rhythm with "Inner Journey" before ending triumphantly with cello bowing in and out of a transforming tempo on "Classical Hip-Hop."

Unlike so many electronic albums, the songs on *Aesthetes* do not bleed into one other. Though the tracks relate, each captures separate emotions. The result of an innovative partnership, which will hopefully inspire more, *Aesthetes* is a welcome cross between old- and new-world sounds. (self-released)

— *Jessica Dugan*

LOCAL LIKES

Golden Void

Golden Void

Newcomer Golden Void takes its cues from the classic rock of the Seventies, when psychedelic blues and early metal converged into a guitar-solo-and-wah-wah pedal-driven sound. Golden Void's self-titled debut album fully embraces the cheesiness, but also pulls off serious musicianship on tracks such as "Jetsun Dolma," which sounds like a new take on Taj Mahal. (Thrill Jockey)

At Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St., San Francisco) on Friday, Nov. 23, 8:30 p.m. $7

Holly Herndon

Movement

Electronic composer Holly Herndon represents a fringe niche in the genre. On her debut album *Movement*, she manipulates her voice and noise samples, layering their echoes over looping beats and disjointed rhythms. The result is an absence of melody and form — too potent to be described as ambient and too alien to be called techno. (RVNG Intl.)

Latyrx

Disconnection EP

It's been fifteen years since Latyrx' first and only album. MCs Lyrics Born and Lateef the Truthspeaker have stayed busy with solo careers since the duo's first release, but on new EP *Disconnection* they've returned to the politically charged lyrics and boom-bap beats of their youth. The nostalgic sound will please diehard fans, but likely not win new ones. (Mobile Home Recordings/Latyramid)

At The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Nov. 15, 9 p.m. $25

Brand New Trash

Brand New Trash

Brand New Trash is a lo-fi project from the founders of Americana outfit Buster Hoot'n, and its debut self-titled album sounds like the basement tapes of a hillbilly coven. Brothers Vince and Jimmy Dewald turn up the distortion on their guitars and sing through their noses like hungover teenagers, but when they want to inflict real pain, the harmonica comes in handy. (self-released) ●

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Nov. 15, 9 p.m. $10

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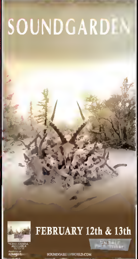
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

WEDNESDAY 14

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m., $TBA

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] & the Sound King Maxwell's Roadhouse, 8:15 p.m., free
Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m., free
Red [illegible] dinner jazz with guest [illegible] singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free
Survival [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

The Sleeping Giants w/ [illegible] and Position, The New Parish, 9 p.m., free
Sky Alien with Mars Hotel, Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Average White Band Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $25

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

[illegible] Night with Reggie Flash and DJ [illegible], Dorsey's Locker, 7:11 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ La Voix du Nord, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50, $28.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Greg Nagy Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $15
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Night [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $7

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] with Gaucho and Eric Garland's Jazz Session, Amnesia, 7 p.m., free
Ricardo Scales playing Brazilian jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 5:30-11:30 p.m., $6
Wednesday Jazz Night Amnesia, 7 p.m.

free

Rock & Pop

Andrew Jackson Jihad w/ Future of the Left and Jeff Rosenstock, Slim's, 8 p.m., $15
Blue Light Lemma w/ Blues, [illegible] Puppies, and [illegible] Farm, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $6-$8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 7:30 p.m., $22-$60
Gentleman Jesse and His Men w/ [illegible] Street and Cocktails, Internet Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $8
[illegible] & The [illegible] w/ The [illegible], Supernova and Things Get Weird, The Independent, 7 p.m., $15, $25
Loss w/ [illegible], [illegible], and Rojo, Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $10
Lydia [illegible] w/ Sweet Fidelity, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and His [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $11

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

The Internet 330 Ritch, 9 p.m., $15
Marc Broussard w/ Kelley James, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $29

THURSDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50
[illegible] [illegible], 9:30 p.m., free
The Syncopaths Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $12, $15

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Goapele Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $30
Red [illegible] dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free
Skip Henderson and [illegible] Wreck Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

DJ [illegible] happy hour punk show, [illegible], 5 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ Worm Ouroboros, Laudanum, and Lycus, [illegible], 7 p.m., $10
The [illegible] w/ The Phenomenauts and The [illegible], The [illegible], 8 p.m., $13, $15
Synthetic ID w/ Freedom Club and TBA, 1-2-3-4 Go Records, 7 p.m., $5
Wreck This Place w/ The 1st Holiday, the [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] Club, 8 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ Strong Arm Steady, [illegible], Skinny Douglas, and [illegible], The New Parish, 7:30 p.m., $15
Goapele listening party for [illegible]'s new album "Memory Lane", Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

Janam w/ Disciples of Marley and [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Society and Dylan [illegible], Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $8-$10
Joe Louis Walker Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $22
Y La Bamba w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $10

Classical & Opera

SF Opera: Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* starring Angela Gheorghiu, [illegible], Roberto Frontali, Christian Van Horn, Dale Travis, and Joel Sorensen; conducted by Nicola Luisotti, War Memorial Opera House, 7:30 p.m., $22-$371

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The Love Dimension and OS Beaches w/ The Haunting Martyrs and DJ Sets by [illegible] and The Duke of Windsor, Great American Music Hall, 8:30 p.m., $12

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio live jazz, [illegible], 8:30-11 p.m., free
Chris Amberger Trio and Jazz Jam in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8:30 p.m., free
[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $20
The [illegible] La [illegible], 7-10 p.m., free
[illegible] in the Lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco,

Goapele plays at Yoshi's in Oakland 11/15-18

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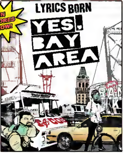

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Fri, Nov 16 – [illegible]
GRAHAM DECHTER w/ JEFF HAMILTON TRIO

Sat, Nov 17 – [illegible]
ERIC DARIUS

Sun, Nov 18 – [illegible]
SONY HOLLAND QUINTET

Tue, Nov 20 – [illegible]
CARLOS REYES

Wed, Nov 21 – [illegible]
JEFF LORBER FUSION

Thu-Fri Sun, Nov 22-23, 25
HENRY ROLLINS: The Long March

Sat, Nov 24 – Alexander Abreu &
HAVANA D'PRIMERA

Tue, Nov 27 – [illegible]
JACOB ARMEN

Wed-Sat, Nov 28-Dec 1
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Sun, Nov 25 – Ellen Seeling, director
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DAHRIO WONDER

Wed, Nov 28 – CD Release Party
Darryl Anders – AGAPÉSOUL

Thu, Nov 29 – CD Release Party
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PICKS

Neurosis

The name Neurosis is synonymous with a particularly bleak, ambient, doomy kind of post-metal that has influenced countless bands, many which have gone on to make their own [illegible] (and many that have released albums on the band's own Neurot Recordings label). Formed in Oakland in the mid-Eighties, Neurosis just released a new album, *Honor Found in Decay*, which the legendary band bills its "most dynamic to date, juxtaposing crushingly heavy noise with quiet, sparse, atmospheric, and introspective moments." The band's lineup hasn't changed much in its near-thirty-year career, and while guitarists/vocalists Steve Von Till and Scott Kelly now live in remote locales in the Northwest, they've still clearly got close ties to the East Bay. The band has gathered a stellar lineup — metal legends Voivod and doom trio YOB — for its sole US appearance at The Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, Nov. 17. Don't miss it. 8 p.m., $29.50. TheFoxOakland.com — *Kathleen Richards*

Neurosis

Nas and Lauryn Hill

Widely lauded as one of the greatest emcees of hip hop, Nas is a consummate storyteller who has influenced a new generation of rappers during his two-decade-long career. His acclaimed *Life Is Good*, released in July, is one of many lavish, evocative, stunningly produced, and lyrically tight albums he's put out since his 1994 classic *Illmatic*. Like some of the best rappers, Nas is a poet, social theorist, photographer, and high priest. It's safe to say that his show with rapper-chanteuse goddess Lauryn Hill (formerly of The Fugees) — another member of hip-hop royalty — will be golden enough to gild the stage they walk on. They perform with Jhene Aiko at The Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Monday, Nov. 19. 8 p.m., $49.50-$79.50. TheFoxOakland.com — *Lenika Cruz*

Nas

The Joy Formidable

We get the sense that The Joy Formidable is aiming for world domination, and won't stop until it achieves it. Its trailer for its new album, *Wolf's Law*, is a bit of spectacular hyperbole — setting its quiet/loud title track anthem against visuals of massive global events (waterfalls, alligator births, lightning storms, volcanic eruptions). We get it: this is epic stuff. That said, we do have a soft spot for this Welsh alt-rock trio, if only because the members are so earnest in their wanting to entertain and write the best songs ever. Expect the live show to be over the top — if you can stomach it. At the newly opened Chapel (777 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Tuesday, Nov. 20. 9 p.m., $25. — *K.R*

C&C

8:30 p.m. free

Nado in the Lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco. 8:30 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Big Tree with [illegible]. Café du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $10

Dig Dug w/ [illegible]. Café du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $10

The Jones Tapes w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. $8

[illegible] The Lower 48 and [illegible]. 9 p.m. $6

Future Death Music Fest 2012 benefit for the SF Food Bank w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $5 before 11pm, $10 after

The [illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $10

Midnight [illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. free

SugarSeep [illegible]. 9 p.m. free

Lance Lopata w/ The Amazing, The Fillmore. 8 p.m. $22.50

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Lalyric w/ The Gift of Gab and 1-O.A.K., The Independent. 8 p.m. $26

Midtown Social [illegible]. 9 p.m. $5-$7

Stompy Jones playing "Central Avenue" inspired R&B, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Dur 4 Las Mías [illegible], 9:30 p.m. free

FRIDAY 16

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] San Francisco [illegible] [illegible] Middle School. 8 p.m. $5

Blues, Folk, & Country

Baby Grande w/ [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. $10-$15

Luke Travis w/ [illegible] and the [illegible] Parade and [illegible]. 7 p.m. free

Gospel & Vocal

"[illegible]" Gospel showcase plus rap, spoken-word, dance, vocalists, musicians, & more. Bay Area [illegible] Convention. 7 p.m. free

[illegible] City Chorus [illegible] Jones First Congregational Church of Oakland. 8 p.m. $12-$20

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] CD release for [illegible]. 8 p.m. $10-$12

Alamic Rogers Jupiter. 9 p.m. free

[illegible] New [illegible] Quintet w/ [illegible], Piedmont Piano Company. 8 p.m. $15

Goapele Yoshi's Oakland. 8 & 10 p.m. $30

Jim Jones Jazz Trio [illegible], 8:30 p.m. free

Big [illegible] Trio featuring [illegible] on drums and [illegible] on bass, Jupiter. 5-7 p.m. free

Red Tibble dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley. 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Forrestand 14-piece [illegible] to [illegible]. The New Parish. 8 p.m. $15

Breeze w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Oakland Metro Operahouse. 8 p.m. $10

[illegible] Lily and [illegible] w/ [illegible] Electric and Chair Repair Company, [illegible] Club. 7 p.m. $TBA

Melody [illegible] & Jonas [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $20.50-$22.50

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C&C

Hornet w/ The Attack, Oakland Metro Operahouse. 8 p.m. $14

Goldenberg Field benefit show for the [illegible] and County [illegible] featuring [illegible], Playboy School, Black Cobra Vipers, and The Bay Area Chordinators. Rock Club. 8 p.m. $10 or 8 cans of food.

The [illegible] w/ Sic and the Ravens, The Lotus [illegible] and DJ Zola. The Uptown. 9 p.m. $20

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Gladys Knight w/ The Ballroom, Paramount Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $49.15-$109.75

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] Social Club La Peña Cultural Center. 8 p.m. $12-$15

Marianne [illegible] [illegible] 8:30 p.m. $15-$18

Ska Night w/ Skankaholics, [illegible], Westside [illegible], [illegible], Hope Collective, and Sustainasynnous. 924 Gilman. 7 p.m. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gary Clark, Jr. The Warfield. 8 p.m. $35

Joe [illegible] Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $22

Y La Bamba w/ [illegible] and Ways, [illegible]. 8 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Graham [illegible] w/ Jeff [illegible] Etc. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 p.m. $15-$22

SFJAZZ Presents [illegible] Theatre. 5 p.m. $25-$65

Rock & Pop

[illegible] & Americans w/ [illegible] and DJ [illegible]. [illegible] 9:30 p.m. $8

[illegible] w/ Show You Suck, [illegible] and DJ [illegible], [illegible] Hall. 8 p.m. $10, $13

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] High Cliffs, and Silver Kingdom, Rock [illegible]. 9 p.m. $10

El Ten Eleven w/ Pennant and Yourself and The Air. Rickshaw Stop. 8 p.m. $10

Double Double w/ Hot Lunch and [illegible], Hemlock Tavern. 9:30 p.m. $8

[illegible] w/ In This Moment and [illegible], [illegible]. 8 p.m. $8

[illegible] w/ Kahanah, The Independent. 9 p.m. $12, $15

My Summer Surprise w/ [illegible], Make-Out Room. 7:30 p.m. $6

[illegible] The Regency Ballroom. 8 p.m. $39-$42

Talkdemonic w/ Extra Classic, Jel, and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill. 9 p.m. $11, $12

[illegible] w/ Castle and Serpent Crown. Thee Parkside. 9 p.m. $8

The [illegible]: The Complete U2 Experience w/ [illegible], a The Knife tribute band. Cafe du Nord. 9:30 p.m. $15

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] Room. 8 p.m. $10

SF Funk Fest w/ [illegible], Guitar Wolf, Fort Knox 5, and All Good Funk Alliance. Mighty. 10 p.m. $15-$20

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

The [illegible] w/ Natural Mystic and [illegible]. Great American Music Hall. 9 p.m. $18, $20

SATURDAY 17

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

1st Annual California Banjo Extravaganza w/ Bill Keith, Alan Munde, Bill Evans, and All-star band, plus afternoon workshops. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $26.50, $28.50

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The [illegible] American [illegible] [illegible]. 8 p.m. $12-$15

[illegible], Yoshi's Oakland. 8 & 10 p.m. $00

Harley White Jr. Trio [illegible]. 8 p.m. free

Jazz & Jay [illegible]. 5:30 p.m. free

Bud Double dinner jazz with guest [illegible] singers. The Alley. 8 p.m. free

Kids

Los Amigos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center. 10:30 a.m. $6, $5 for kids.

Rock & Pop

Catch the [illegible] [illegible] Cafe. 7 p.m. free

Freelance Oakland. Rock Club. 3 p.m. $5

Jack Knows All w/ Chaquabom, Good Knight, Malicious [illegible], and SSA guest. [illegible] show. 924 Gilman. 7 p.m. $8

Johnny Legend w/ The Cloudsleepers, Girls With Guns and The Honeywhistle. Rock Club. 5 p.m. $8

Ladeskie Piedmont Center for the Arts. 7:30 p.m. $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and YOB. Fox Theater. 5 p.m. $26.50

The [illegible] w/ Rough Waters, Starry Plough. 8:30 p.m. $8-$12

[illegible] People w/ Hacker for Everything and guest TBA. Eli's Mile High Club. 8 p.m. $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

DJ Red Dorsey's Locker. 8 p.m. free

[illegible] Disco Volante. 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] and DJ Will w/ [illegible]. The New Parish. 8:30 p.m. $17

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Angelique Kidjo The critically acclaimed African-born vocalist presents a recital of original and classic songs. Zellerbach Hall. 8 p.m. $22-$60

La [illegible] Allegro Ballroom. 7:30 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Saloon. 8-11 p.m. free

Jackie Payne Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $20

[illegible] w/ JJ [illegible] Coleman. [illegible]. 9 p.m. $15

[illegible] Caffe Trieste. 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ The Happy Family Singers. Make-Out Room. 7:30 p.m. $8

Classical & Opera

SF Symphony presents [illegible] Phillips Davies Symphony Hall. 8 p.m. $15-$75

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazz Mandolin Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara. 8-11:30 p.m. free

[illegible] Green Room. 8 p.m. $34

Eric [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 p.m. $22-$28

Jazz Mafia Symphony The Fillmore. 9 p.m. $25

[illegible] in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco. 8:30 p.m. free

SFJAZZ Presents [illegible] and the [illegible] Lounge All-Stars Herbst Theatre. 8 p.m. $25-$60

SFJAZZ Presents Family Matinee [illegible] Herbst Theatre. 11 a.m. $5-$15

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ Chuckleberries, [illegible] Parkside. 3 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Independent. 8 p.m. $15, $17

The Faint w/ Trust, [illegible]. The Faint will play its 2001 hit album Danse Macabre. The Regency Ballroom. 8 p.m. $25, $31

Goldenboy w/ The New Familiar, The Pharmacy, and Warm Soda. Thee Parkside. 9 p.m. $8

He Who Cannot Be Named w/ The [illegible] Spots, [illegible] The B Grill. 10 p.m. $8

[illegible] Lab w/ [illegible] and Scarlet Sails, [illegible]. 9 p.m. $8

M.I.R.V. w/ The Rock Monsters and [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill. 9:30 p.m. $14, $16

[illegible] w/ Moan and [illegible], [illegible] Tavern. 9:30 p.m. $8

Poor Man's Whiskey w/ The Brandy Spoonies and Friends. A benefit for the [illegible] Barrier Reef World Heritage Site. [illegible]. 9 p.m. $14

[illegible] and Frankenstein w/ [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible]. 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] Revival, [illegible]. 9 p.m. $12

Typhoon w/ Laura Gibson and [illegible], Great American Music Hall. 8 p.m. $13, $15

[illegible] w/ Family of the Year, Slim's. 8 p.m. $10, $13

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

International Salsa [illegible] Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum. 8 p.m. $25-$35

SUNDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Americana Unplugged with [illegible], Jupiter. 5 p.m. free

Mary [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 4 p.m. $38.50, $40.50

Sunday Morning Blues with [illegible], Caffe Mediterraneum. 11 a.m. free

Classical & Opera

The Holy Names University Orchestra w/ soloists Candy Li-Wen Chen and Joy Chlow. [illegible] Theater. 7 p.m. $5, $10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] jazz-inspired piano improvisations. [illegible] Café. 12:30 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Swing Quartet, Piedmont Piano Company. 4 p.m. $12, $15

[illegible], Yoshi's Oakland. 7 & 8 p.m. $30

Jazz "In the Tradition" [illegible] Senior Apartments. 3 p.m. $10

Jazz and Blues Night Dorsey's Locker. 6-10 p.m. free

Jazz at the Chapel featuring [illegible] Chapel of the Chimes. 2 p.m. $10, $15

John [illegible] Actual Café. 5 p.m. free

The Sandy [illegible] [illegible] Lounge. 6:30-10 p.m. free

[illegible] Big Band Alameda Elks Lodge. 5-8 p.m. $20, couples $35

Jazzschool [illegible] Ensemble Jazzschool. 4:30 p.m. $12, $15

Kids

Andy Z [illegible]. 3 p.m. $4, $8

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Rock End, Piece By Piece, Maybe, and Plead The Fifth. 924 Gilman. 5 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Somar Bar & Lounge. 8 p.m. free

[illegible] Steps with monthly live hip-hop and [illegible] DJ [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 5 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Jeff [illegible] w/ Michelle [illegible] and the Jeff [illegible] Band. [illegible]. 6:30 p.m. $10, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible]. 7 & 9 p.m. $15

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

1-2-3-4 Go! Records 420 40th St., Oakland. 510-985-0325.
25th Street Collective 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-784-3100.
[illegible] Art Gallery 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.
Air Bar & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2377.
Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473.
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8505.
[illegible] 3455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] Marina Vista Ave., [illegible].
Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.
The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-237-1000.
[illegible] 510 17th St., Oakland. 510-444-2700.
[illegible] Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., [illegible] 510-523-8857.
[illegible] 1001 B St., Hayward. 510-886-8525.
Café Van Kleef 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-763-7711.
Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198.
[illegible] Club 1550 Walnut St. #5, Berkeley. 510-849-9896.
Café 1220 1220 Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550.
Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 408 3rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 3363 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224.
[illegible] Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible].
Disco Volante 347 14th St., Oakland. 510-663-0271.
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda. [illegible]
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-338-4911.
Eli's Mile High Club 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Era Art Bar and Lounge 19 Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]
[illegible] 126 Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible].
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-3555.
Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward. 510-[illegible].
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-644-2020.
Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-9988.
High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 1438 [illegible] St., Alameda. [illegible]
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373.
[illegible] Community [illegible] of the East Bay 1404 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
John Patrick's 1913 Park St., Alameda. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] & The [illegible] 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-[illegible].
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277.
Kimball's [illegible] 522 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-5464.
Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-525-5888.
La [illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Lakeshore Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland. [illegible]
The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517.
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-523-4700.
[illegible] 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677.
[illegible] 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland. [illegible]
Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2255.
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 1860 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland. 510-444-7474.
[illegible] [illegible] Oakland Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Oakland City Center 580 12th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 890 3rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.
[illegible] Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400.
[illegible] Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. [illegible]
Piedmont Piano Company 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-547-8188.
[illegible] 1051 [illegible] Dr., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 435 13th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 2512 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
The Rock Steady 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.
[illegible] 3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]
[illegible] 132 10th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 2411 [illegible] Rd., Fremont. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-[illegible].
Shoreline Amphitheatre 1 Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View. 650-[illegible].
[illegible] 1424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 2580 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible].
St. [illegible] Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 3131 [illegible]. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-[illegible].
Studio 1510 1510 [illegible] St., Oakland.
Subterranean Art House 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 1978 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] & Grill 204 [illegible] St., Concord. 925-[illegible].
[illegible] Vineyards [illegible] Rd., Livermore. 925-[illegible].
[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-[illegible].
[illegible] 6[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200.
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St. 415-[illegible].
Amnesia 853 Valencia St. 415-970-0012.
[illegible] 1850 Haight St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 1[illegible] Bush St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Tillman Pl. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 448 Broadway St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Café 5[illegible] Irving St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 1090 Great Highway. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 2[illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 1015 Columbus Ave. 415-474-0365.
[illegible] 811 Mason St. 415-[illegible].
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-626-4455.
[illegible] 2389 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
Café du Nord 2170 Market St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 508 Haight St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 970 Valencia St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 800 Sutter St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] Green St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.
[illegible] 2[illegible] Leavenworth St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge 375 11th St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 2490 3rd St. 415-[illegible].
The [illegible] [illegible] 12th St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 950 Geary St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 2[illegible] 18th St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 3158 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 647 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge 3[illegible] Geary St. 415-[illegible].
The [illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000.
[illegible] 5[illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750.
[illegible] 1[illegible] Polk St. 415-[illegible].
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 9[illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
The Independent 628 Divisadero St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] & Grill 2[illegible] Geary Blvd. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 256 Columbus Ave. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Foley's [illegible] 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-[illegible].
The [illegible] 3223 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge 1710 Mission St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 900 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 444 Jessie St. 415-[illegible].
The Music Store [illegible]
[illegible] 1[illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 1090 Great Highway. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 1[illegible] Powell St. 415-[illegible].
Pier 23 The Embarcadero. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge 1[illegible] Polk St. 415-[illegible].
The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave. TheRegencyBallroom.com
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] 29th St. 415-[illegible].
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St. 415-861-2011.
[illegible] 4[illegible] Clement St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 222 Mason St.
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 4[illegible] [illegible] Ave. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] 11th St. 415-[illegible].
Slim's 333 11th St. 415-255-0333.
[illegible] 5[illegible] [illegible] Ave. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 3[illegible] 5th St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 2183 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] Harrison St. 415-[illegible].
Swig Bar 561 Geary St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] 5[illegible] Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St. 415-252-1330.
Top of the Mark [illegible] 999 California St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-[illegible].
[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St. 415-[illegible].
The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722.
[illegible] and Lounge 2[illegible] Sutter St. 415-[illegible].
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600.

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BELL'UVA
DISCO VOLANTE
ELIXIR
HORSESHOE TAVERN
MAVEN
NORTHSTAR
RYE
SMUGGLER'S COVE
[illegible]
TOPE
TUPELO

ELSEWHERE
ANVIL [HOUSTON]
BELLYQ [CHICAGO]
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NOSTRANA [PORTLAND]
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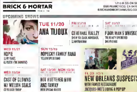

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UPCOMING SHOWS

TUE 11/20
ANA TIJOUX

FRI 11/16
CEREBRAL BALLZY
SHOW YOU SUCK, HANDGRAB, DJ [illegible]

SAT 11/17
POOR MAN'S WHISKEY
THE BEAUTY OPERATION, [illegible]

WED 11/21
HOPIE
[illegible]

SUN 12/09
ROPECKY FAMILY BAND
YELLOW OPERA BAND

WED 11/28
CAST OF CLOWNS W/ MELVIN SEALS
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UPCOMING SHOWS

THURSDAY 12/06
BILAL
TERRACE, [illegible], TRACK ROBERTS, [illegible]

WEDNESDAY 11/14
THE SLEEPING GIANTS
[illegible]

FRIDAY 11/16
FOREVERLAND

[illegible]
DEMARCO
[illegible]

MONDAY 11/19
WINTERSLEEP
ELLIOTT BROOD

WEDNESDAY 11/21
NINA IS LIVING

FRIDAY 11/23
FOOD SOCIAL

[illegible]
ENSEMBLE MIK NAWOOJ

FRIDAY [illegible]
OAKLAND CARNIVAL WITH ROCA DO RIO
[illegible]

SATURDAY 12/1
KING TUFF
[illegible]

MONDAY 12/03
JACK DAVEY

FRIDAY 12/[illegible]
THE SOFT MOON

SAT [illegible]
THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS

THURSDAY [illegible]
G-EAZY

MONDAY 12/31
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C&C

[illegible] Amnesia, 8 p.m., $TBA
Presents [illegible] w/ [illegible] and Heather [illegible] Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m., $8-$10

Classical & Opera

SF Opera Presents [illegible] starring Angela Gheorghiu, [illegible], Robert Frontali, Christian Van Horn, Dale Travis, and [illegible], conducted by Nicola Luisotti. War Memorial Opera House, 2 p.m., $22-$271
SF Performances Presents The [illegible] w/ pianist Marc-André [illegible], Herbst Theatre, 7 p.m., $38-$68

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel [illegible] with Future Perfect & rotating guests, 15/07 at Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $39, Holland brunch

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 p.m., $20
[illegible] with Andrew Speight, Sam [illegible], and Mark [illegible], [illegible] 4:30-8:30 p.m., $8

Kids

The [illegible] Nob Hill [illegible] Center, 5:30 p.m., $30-$6

Rock & Pop

Battle of the Bands w/ [illegible], Mallory [illegible], [illegible], and others, DNA Lounge, 5:30 p.m., $10-$12
Cold Sparks w/ [illegible], and Kelly Brown, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Lounge, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $5-$8
Gold [illegible] w/ The [illegible], [illegible] Tavern, 8 p.m., $6
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Music Hall, 8 p.m., $5-$8
Judy [illegible] w/ Nathaniel Johnstone and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $12
Kitchen Fire w/ [illegible] and [illegible] Sunday, Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., free
Modern Day [illegible] Boom Boom Room, 8 p.m., free
Project 86 w/ [illegible] Empire and [illegible] Valley High, DNA Lounge, 8 p.m., $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Presents @ The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $55

MONDAY 19

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's [illegible] Sausage Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m., $10-$8, $12.50

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Unplugged Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $38
Wintersleep w/ Elliott Brood, The New Parish, 8 p.m., $10-$12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] and Ms. Lauryn Hill w/ [illegible], Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $49.50-$79.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Harvey [illegible] & The Robert [illegible] [illegible] Memorial Concert [illegible], 7 p.m., $14

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ TBA guests, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10
Lady [illegible] w/ The [illegible], [illegible] 8 p.m., $TBA
The [illegible] w/ The [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 7 p.m., $20, $22
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $18, $20

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], The [illegible], and [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $10

TUESDAY 20

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's [illegible] 8 p.m., $20
[illegible] The Uptown [illegible], 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

All Hail the Yeti w/ [illegible] Mile High Club, 9 p.m., $TBA
[illegible] w/ Sunfighter, [illegible], and [illegible] River, [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] a Capoeira [illegible] 10 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & The Cadillacs [illegible] Boom 8 & 10 p.m., $15

Classical & Opera

SF Opera Presents [illegible] starring Angela Gheorghiu, [illegible], Robert Frontali, Christian Van Horn, Dale Travis, and [illegible], conducted by Nicola Luisotti, War Memorial Opera House, 8 p.m., $22-$271

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $TBA
[illegible] Presents Tuesday Residency w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $TBA

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], and [illegible] Center, 7:30 p.m., $45, $49.50
[illegible] w/ Snow [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $6
[illegible] Park Chalet Brewery, 6:30 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 7 p.m., free
The Joy Formidable The Chapel, 8 p.m., $25-$28
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and The Lady [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], The [illegible] Age, and [illegible], The [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $7
[illegible] w/ special guests TBA, Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Ana Tijoux Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8:30 p.m., $15-$18
[illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m., $16, $18 ●

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

The Joy Formidable plays the Chapel on 11/20

[illegible]

DJ & DANCE

WEDNESDAY 14

EAST BAY

Hard Candy w/ DJs Robb and Mad Dance spinning indie and electro for girls who love girls. White Horse Bar, 9 p.m., $5-$7

The Jet Set w/ DJ Sanders and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 8 p.m., $8-$15

Karaoke Sandwich w/ DJ Fee Ding. The Layover, 8 p.m., free

Persuasion Latin Lounge night w/ Bebe Vielda. Bench and Bar, 7 p.m., $6-$15

Rooms resident DJs Soul Proteus and Lydia and Lounge guests spin hip-hop, deep house, Bmore beat, uptempo dancehall reggae, and Flemish rhythms. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Tremendous DJ Terrible Timmy blows everything from doo-wop to punk rock from the '50s through the '90s. Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Wonderbra Wednesdays Portal, 5 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

1015 Nights DJ Chris, Sekhah Mono, Mono Africa & Mobile Cuzzie grooves. Underground SF, 9 p.m., $5

Brand New Wednesdays w/ DJs Rusty B, Ryce, & B-Stout spinning hip-hop, top 40, reggae, R&B, & more. Milk, 10 p.m., free

DJ Sears spinning chilled-out dream new-school soul, underground hip-hop, & stripped-down Afro-fusion. Swig Bar, 8 p.m., free

DJ Waddlegs spinning Mono & reggaeton. Little Baobab, 9 p.m., $3

Escape DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae & park classics. The Lexus, 10 p.m., free

Rumour Sushi Bar Happy Hour The Knockout, 6-9 p.m., free

Mixtape Wednesday DJs Sleepy Brown & Herb Dogs spin classics, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul. Skylark, 10 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ rotating guest DJs. Amsi, 9 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $5

Soul Flashback Monarch, 9 p.m., $12

THURSDAY 15

EAST BAY

Body Language w/ DJs D-Nam and Bers-G spinning '80s and '90s funk, pop, R&B and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Boom Fever w/ Selector Dan Brown spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free

Delicious Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free

DJ Adill spinning eclectic sounds. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

DJ Lady Ryan Hyphy, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Yoda spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Hip Operation with DJ Adeline. The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Riff Raff indie pop, hip-hop, new wave. [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Electric Sound 'n' Heat featuring DJ Texas spinning '60s & '50s hits. Forbidden Island, 8 p.m., free

SUPPORTgGap DJs Slot and Rufn/Puff spin an eclectic mix of funk, disco, house, and techno. Jupiter, 9 p.m.

Tiny ladies night w/ DJ Mo Benson spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15

Temple w/ DJ Matthew Baker spinning global house power hits. White Horse Bar, 10 p.m.-midnight, free

Ultra Mono DJs Tuco, Saka One, and Willie Maze play Dance Dance Mono grooves. Somar Bar & Lounge, 6 p.m., free

Upfall Thursdays w/ DJ Ke. Ra and guests spinning roots reggae and dancehall. Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5

Yerbita Dance Rooms featuring DJs Carlos Mono and Cruel. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] DJs Damon, Dangerous Dan, & [illegible] spin '80s & new wave. Cat Club, 9 p.m., free before 9:30 p.m., $6

Afrolicious w/ DJ Pleasuremaker and Sola Rosa (live), Epic Mono. 9:30 p.m., $8

Boogaloo by Bass DJ Bass ... during Bingo. The Knockout, 7:30-9 p.m., free

Cheeba w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m., $10

College Night DJs Rhett and Matt Jerry's spin hip-hop, hyphy, R&B. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free

DJs Rumorz & Willie spinning funky Mono & underground hip-hop. Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free

Galaxia DNA Lounge, 10 p.m., $13-$15

NightLife Weekly Mono for adults, with cocktails, craft fairs, workshops, science exhibits, and rotating musical guests. This week's feature is Jess Lawson w/ Sanitary & Conner and Mono the DJ. California Academy of Sciences, 6-10 p.m., $12

Pacific Standard Time featuring DJ Leydis, Kaloe All Day & Ana Gomez. Eve Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Phonic Lounge DJs, The EndUp, 10 p.m., $10

Ritualz w/ Finally Boys, SeNtA_MU$TE, and Lurie. Public Works, 10 p.m., $8-$10

Tropicana Night DJ Ben Bustamante, Sr Dance and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton, and Merengue. [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 16

EAST BAY

45 Revolution Disco Volante, 9:30 p.m., $5

Fuego 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 p.m., $0-$15

DJ Solo spinning top 40, house, and hip-hop. White Horse Bar, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Willie Mono Somar Bar & Lounge, 5 p.m., free

Dance Fridays Lounge DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, and reggae. New Karibbean City, 9 p.m., $5 admission until 1 a.m.

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $10

Friday Night Jams w/ DJ Dope X, Fiesta, 9 p.m., $5

Happy Mono w/ DJ Golden Giant spinning punk, rock, indie & Mono rock. The Missouri Lounge, 4-10 p.m., free

Hella Gay Dance Party The Uptown, 9 p.m., $5

Hip-Hop Mixed Mood w/ Dance DJ. Club 1220, 9 p.m., $6

Kultura Libre w/ DJ Boy Wonder. Somar Bar & Lounge, 5 p.m., free, $5 cover after 11 p.m.

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Collazo Mono cumbia, salsa, merengue, banda, Spanish pop, & Mono. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8-$15

Nuances weekly in Dance Off series. Annexe Music, 6-9 p.m., free

Mighty Irie DJs Worker-T and Dub and Smoke-Tea spin reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 Dance 11 p.m., $10 after

Old School hip-hop and funk. Radio, 9 p.m., free

Naked Night w/ DJ Raverd spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B. Paradise Club, 10 p.m., Dance free Round 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Active [illegible] hosts '80s new night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

The Skillet with DJ Crimson, The Layover, 9 p.m.

Soul Baps w/ DJ R.C. and DJ Jme, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Sultry Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Ron spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 5 p.m., $5

World Bass Fridays featuring DJ Tropic spinning afrobeat, roots, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Congo Lounge, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Dirt DJs Morale, Kap10 Harris, & Shane King spin electro, booty bass, trunk, moombahton breaks, hyphy, hip-hop, & party classics. Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., $6 after 10 p.m.

DJ Danny Rampolo spinning mash, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '80s, indie & pop. Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free

DJs Carmelo and Miranda El Rio, 9 p.m., free

Drop The Lime w/ Trekkie Trax and DJs Aaron Axelsen, Stonemover, Manion, Bear and Pickle Panic. DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $10-$15

[illegible] El Rio, 10 p.m., free

Flashback Friday DJs Scotty Fox, Good-E MC, & Chrome Scratch spin '80s and hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $10 after

Fridays at the Fruit Stand w/ DJs Carmelo and Miranda spinning soul, funk, and world. El Rio, 6-9 p.m., free

Ghettodisco [illegible] DJs. The EndUp, 11 p.m., $15 free before midnight

Hoss Tight w/ DJs Vinnie Esparza, hyphy Decker and Abe Spumanti. Amnesia, 10 p.m.

Dance Murphy & El Sol w/ DUG and Derek Opperman, Dance [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $20-$25

Mono Juliets w/ DJ Toni Churro and guests. Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

Electric Sound Mighty, 10 p.m., $5

Dance 500 w/ Josh Cheon, Sober and Conor Macleod, 9 p.m., $10-$15

Night of the Unread w/ DJs White and Badass spinning nasty rock 'n' roll and [illegible]. The Knockout, 10 p.m., $5

M83 LP release party w/ Sam Halliday and Slayers Club. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $10

PICK

Ritualz

Witch-house, darkwave, goth rave — it's easy to spot the DJs that make up this subgenre of dance music, because they often have symbols next to their names and abuse of upper- and lowercase letters and numbers. Get past the gimmick and the music is a mix of chopped hip-hop beats, industrial bass, deep vocals, ambient noise, and glitchy synths. Thursday night party Future Perfect has been on the pulse of this emerging sound, previously booking headliners like Pictureplane and padding the bills of the lineup with locals like Antwon and Chippy Nonstop, both of who apply these beats to their style of hipster hip-hop. On Thursday, Nov. 15, the party will host a rare appearance by Mexico City's Ritualz, supported by Oakland duo Finally Boys, synth party 120 Minutes resident DJ SeNtA_MU$TE, and Lurie of San Francisco band Water Borders, which is signed to London-based label Tri Angle Records, the arbiter of this scene. Break in the Doc Martens before you hit this dance party at Public Works (161 Erie St., San Francisco), 9 p.m., $10. PublicSF.com — *Whitney Phaneuf*

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SAT 10PM $7/$5 b4 11
DJs MARK DI VITA & RY TOAST soul · r&b · hip-hop · funk · reggae · latin grooves

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D&D

Paris Tyson International DJs Sogol and Moore spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Malibu, 9 p.m., $5

The Oregon [illegible] Party w/ old school hip-hop and First Friday Latin Room by The Wrecking Crew DJs, El Rio, 9-10 p.m., free

Redwoodthirty celebrating the sound of low budget synthesizers, Eastern European Cold War, [illegible], & the more experimental dubby and [illegible] side of spin-punk. 222 Hyde, Every 6 p.m., free

Re:Creation w/ Foreign Beggars, [illegible] and others. 1015 Folsom, [illegible] 10 p.m., $10-$20

Shark Sound w/ DJs [illegible], Tomas, Diablo, Christine [illegible], & [illegible] spinning indie, electro, minimal, and prog. Cat Club, 9:30 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $5

SMILE rotating live performers spin [illegible] spinning rock, soul, French pop, & more. The Knockout, 10 p.m., free

Silencio Deluxe party hosted by Padow Day w/ Beverley DJs. Aala SF, 10 p.m., $8

Strictly Double featuring VRJ's spinning music videos from every genre. 111 Minna Street Gallery, 10-$10

Sweet w/ DJs K-Bug, [illegible], Knockout, [illegible] & [illegible]. Underground SF, 9 p.m., $5

SATURDAY 17

EAST BAY

All Productions & Seasoned DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. Fours, 10 p.m., free

Club Shanta w/ DJs Stark and [illegible] spinning indie, electro, [illegible], and guilty pleasures. Urban Room Bar, 9 p.m., $5-$7

Club Sabroso w/ DJ Ruin and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Barrish and Bar, 9 p.m., $8 before 11 p.m.

DJ Aambush Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning dancehall, pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. [illegible] Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

Double Dragon w/ [illegible] and Emily spinning [illegible] indie pop, punk, krunk, & funk. The Magnum Lounge, 10 p.m., free

House Sharevard Club 1220, 9 p.m., $5

La Onda Loca Latin cowboy night w/ DJs spinning [illegible], [illegible] & guests, spin [illegible]. Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

Magic Man [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests spin [illegible]. [illegible] Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Reggae Night Crogin Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Shockwave with DJs Yen Blood and Max Kane. The Layover, 9 p.m., free

Sabroso Saturdays rotating DJs spin classic hip-hop, neo soul, and [illegible] [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Thump w/ DJ Kenani spinning [illegible] funk, house, and soul. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., $5

Time Warp Zero w/ Visionary Arts Exhibition and Continuum, Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $12-$18

Vinyl Only! w/ DJ Roon, [illegible] spinning punk, dancehall, synth punk, and '80s along. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Baby Loves Disco: Free Francisco! family daytime Room dance party. Temple, noon, $15

Beatmacks w/ DJ Steve Sherwood and Matt Stands. Monarch, 9 p.m., $8 before 10 p.m., $8 after

Club Dreamcorn w/ DJ Shug spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits. Jelani's, 10 p.m., free before 11 p.m. with voucher

DJ Adrian Homecoming Ride w/ Adrian, [illegible], Smash-Up Derby, and others. DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $10-$15

DJ Dads Tru Sang Fit, 9 p.m., free

F. SuperVitual w/ DJs spinning [illegible] magnetic eyes, [illegible] and [illegible] dance-pop. Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

Double DJs Bta & Decadence spin hip-hop, soul, funk, & reggae. Lask, 9 p.m., free

Monarch lesbian party w/ DJs spinning '80s, new wave, & hip-hop. Cat Club, 9 p.m., free

UR Balloon w/ Jamal, Comedian, Emcee Drag [illegible] and Nate Mighty. 10 p.m., $20

O.K. Club w/ DJs Ray ney, Keith Rogers, and [illegible] and rotating live acts. Amnesia, 9 p.m., $TBA

O.K. Club w/ Tussle, [illegible], and guest DJ Andy Cabic Tussle record. Double party. Amnesia, 9 p.m., $TBA

Paris Dubai International DJs Sogol and Moore spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul. [illegible] Little Baloose, 9 p.m., $5

Pass Saturdays w/ rotating DJs including Robert Edith, Luis Caballero, [illegible], and more. 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 9:30 p.m.-3 a.m., $20

Saturday Night Soul Party with DJs [illegible] Paul Paul and Phengeen Double spinning '60s Soul 45's. Elbo Room, 10 p.m., $5-$10

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club hits. The Cellar, 9 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $10 after

The Rime w/ DJs Somm, [illegible], Trendy [illegible], & guests spinning [illegible] beats. The Endup, 10 p.m., $10

Sta-Gebom w/ Pengin Piston and Goldroom. Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $10

SUNDAY 18

EAST BAY

The Brook w/ [illegible], [illegible], Key Choice and DJ B [illegible]. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m., free

DJ Ready Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Ice Double Sundays w/ [illegible] DJs Roon and Hella Good. Dragon Rouge, 2-8 p.m., free

King of Kings Reggae Sundays spinning reggae, dancehall, and lovers rock with resident [illegible] Smoke. The New Parish, 10 p.m., $10, free for ladies before 11 pm

Room Songs [illegible] spin [illegible], post-metal, punk, hardcore, sludge, shoegaze, and more. Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free

Uncle Fun's Hot Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & more reggae. The Hotsy Totsy Club, 7 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dancemania w/ The Human Experience, [illegible] Chance & End, [illegible], Las Modernas and Man & Sabbo. 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 2 p.m., $25-$35

Dub Mission w/ DJs Sep and Ludichris and guest Bob Snubie. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $6

Beverly Tree DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF, 9 p.m., free before 10:30 p.m., $5

Honey Sundays w/ Honey Soundsystem DJs spinning dance music. Paradise Lounge, 8 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.

Sunday T-Dance w/ DJs Adrian, Roon, [illegible], [illegible], Dan [illegible], Cueno, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], & more. The Endup, 6 a.m.-8 p.m., $15

Sweater Funk Li Po Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Sweaterfunk! [illegible] party w/ funky grooves. The Knockout, 10 p.m., free

Toro Y Mai Closing Art Reception with Club Public Works, 5 p.m., $5

MONDAY 19

EAST BAY

Mamasita Nights w/ DJs Borg and Lalos Stevie spinning world, reggae, Latin and hip-hop. Somar Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Sabroso Mondays The Layover, 9 p.m., free

Soul Sabroso w/ DJ Floyd, Room before 9 p.m., free

Three-Day Weekend DJ Primitive Kunter spins local favorites. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Underground Lounge [illegible] '60s & '70s Pro music, Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Room Guild w/ [illegible] DJs spinning gothic, industrial, [illegible], darkwave, and weird stuff. DNA Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $3, $5

DJ Mons spinning Double soul, rare grooves, & down-tempo. Sing Bar, 9 p.m., free

I Was Beverly DJ [illegible] & Double spin hits and [illegible] from the '70s to today. Underground SF, 10 p.m., free

Medina classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, [illegible], Afrobeat, & more. Little Baobab, 10 p.m., $5

Room Room w/ DJ Orlando, [illegible] lessons. Cafe Cocomo, 7:30 p.m., $5, lessons $10

Stab Stab Weekend [illegible] Tavern, 10 p.m., free

Radical Vinyl w/ revolving line-up of DJs spin [illegible], punk, psych, country, and hip-hop. El Rio, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & Sonnets spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae. Skylark, 9:30 p.m., free

Split Screens w/ DJs MAKossa, Kung Fu Chris, & C-Moore spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, [illegible] Latin and Afrobeat. Sunset Top, 10 p.m., free

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

TUESDAY 20

EAST BAY

Country House Night plus line dancing. Club 1220, 8 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning dancehall, pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kap's Restaurant, 9:20 p.m., free

DJ Wordy spinning punk. Last [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Funky Situation w/ DJ Selecta BC spinning funk, reggae, afrobeat, dancehall, Italian beat, dirty [illegible] grime, '80s hip-hop, Latin, and cuts. The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Soul Food DJ [illegible] and rotating guests spinning reggae, dancehall, and African rhythms. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Stay Punk! w/ DJ Bonifacio spinning indie, punk, hardcore & [illegible]. The Mission Lounge, 10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Boom Up dub Warrior Shelter DJs Jah Warrior, Irie Dole spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, & fun. Free before 11 p.m., $5 10 p.m.-$5

Brazilian Mix w/ Fong Sobrenil and resident DJs Carioca & P-Shot. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $7

DJs Vinnie & Slick spinning funked-up Room underground hip-hop, & silky grooves. Bing Bar, 9 p.m., free

Lost & Found Deep & Sweet DJs Soul Make-Out Room, 9:30 p.m., free

Old-School Hip-Hop & SF House Little Fashion, 9 p.m., $3

Phinom [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] Genome, & Raisa spin MC [illegible]. Underground SF, 9 p.m., $5

The Rime Club Double Feature rotating live theme plus DJ [illegible] & Pele spinning punk rock at the Argus Lounge, The Knockout, 10 p.m., $8

Seesaw w/ DJs Chicken Scratch, Scotty Fox, Derrick D, MC3, & Double spinning late '80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free

Understanding Room w/ KUBT DJs spinning beats tunes. The Knockout, 6-9 p.m., free ●

SAVAGE LOVE

IT GOT BETTER

Plus oral sex, gay and straight.

By Dan Savage

Reading you over the years has absolutely changed my mind on gay marriage. I wanted to let you know that I also live in Maryland and, as you know, we voted last week to allow same-sex couples to legally marry. I was excited that I got to vote for marriage equality in my home state. Dan — even I agree that it's fucked up that people get to vote on the civil rights of LGBT people at all. Thanks for all your writing over the years — it's really made a difference in my love and sex life. And congrats to you and all gay people in the United States for the big wins last week in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington State.

Just Some Straight Guy

There's something I want to say about the votes — and about the voters — in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington State. But first I want to say this to all my fellow queers: We built this. The breakthroughs we saw last week, which included the election of the first openly gay person to the United States Senate (Wisconsin's Tammy Baldwin), we made that. LGBT people came out, fought back, and changed the world. We have a fuck of a lot left to do — repeal DOMA, pass ENDA, unfinished business with DADT (trans people are still barred from serving), defending the rights of queers around the world — but LGBT people have made tremendous progress since Stonewall. It has gotten better for us because we came out and fought to make it better.

Now here is what I want to say to straight people: Thank you. I know so many straight people in Washington State, where I live, who worked unbelievably hard on the campaign to win marriage equality for their gay and lesbian friends, family members, and neighbors. I know straight people in all four states who voted, gave money, worked phone banks, and knocked on doors — all in an effort to make it possible for same-sex couples to marry.

Gays and lesbians are a tiny percentage of the population. And while we laid the groundwork for the breakthroughs we saw last week in Maine, Maryland, Washington, and Minnesota — we built this — we didn't build it on our own. The majorities in the state legislatures in Maine, Maryland, and Washington that voted to make same-sex marriage legal? Straight. The governors who signed laws making same-sex marriage legal? Straight. The overwhelming majority of people who voted in favor of marriage equality in all three states after anti-gay bigots forced public votes on our civil rights? Straight. The majority that voted against writing anti-gay bigotry into Minnesota's state constitution? Straight. And the president who took a huge political risk and came out for marriage equality before his reelection campaign? Straight. It has gotten better for us — better, not perfect — but it hasn't gotten better for us in a vacuum. It's gotten better for us because straight people have gotten better about us.

Rights are rights. They shouldn't be put up for a vote. And we shouldn't have to say "thank you" when they're recognized. The sad fact is that we have had to fight for our rights. But here's the happy fact: We didn't have to fight this one alone. Thousands and thousands of straight people stood with us and fought for us. And that's what we should thank the straight people for. Not for granting us our rights — rights are rights — but for joining our fight.

Last week on my blog, I floated the idea of having a big party for all the straight people who came through for us in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington. But all those straight people wouldn't fit in a single ballroom. But we can fit them on a single Tumblr page. Queers? If you know a straight person in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, or Washington — if you know a straight in any state or the District of Columbia — who donated money, phone-banked, went door-to-door, or took a political risk on our behalf, take your picture with that straight person, write a few words about what they did, and post it to StraightUpThanks.Tumblr.com.

We saw a huge breakthrough in the struggle for LGBT equality last week. And it wouldn't have happened without the help of so many righteous-kick-ass straight people. I'll bet every queer person reading this knows a straight person who they should thank. I certainly do. Thank them in a public way: Go to StraightUpThanks.Tumblr.com, click "submit a post," share a photo, and thank a straight ally.

I am a twentysomething bi guy who loves sucking cock. I especially enjoy when the recipient really enjoys himself (which is often) (not to gloat) (but I just did). Anyway, my problem is that I don't really enjoy receiving. I have received head from three guys, which is not a large sample size, but every time it has been a nonevent. It's almost like I can't even feel a mouth on my dick. How do I fix this?

Blowjob Boredom Blues

In sex comedies, sitcoms, and porn, head is always presented as the ultimate sexual experience, but in reality, some men just don't dig head. But three cocksuckers is a pretty small sample. Let a few other guys suck your dick — let 'em fall face-first on your sword — but don't stress out if nothing changes. It could be a preference, BBB, and not a malfunction.

My wife and I have been together for twenty years. I love to receive oral, but my wife has no interest when I try to return the favor. She claims it does nothing for her. We celebrated Obama's reelection with a bottle of wine in the bedroom. When I made a move downstairs, she didn't stop me. However, she said it tickled her like crazy. Is this common? Is there something I can do to make this experience less hilarious for my wife?

What's So Funny?

Some women struggle with hang-ups or body issues that make it difficult for them to relax and enjoy being on the receiving end of oral sex. But some women who don't struggle with hang-ups or body issues simply don't enjoy receiving oral sex. If your wife is generally comfortable in her own skin and with her own body, WSF, you may have to take her word for it when she says that oral sex does nothing for her. But if it truly does nothing for her — "nothing" would include "annoy" and "turn off" — maybe she can lie back and enjoy what it does for you. ●

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7PM (FREE)
THURSDAY 11/15
TOM LATTANAND'S NAKED THURSDAYS
THIS WEEK: STEPHEN DUROS
7PM (FREE)
FRIDAY 11/16
OAKTOWN INDIE
MAYHEM PRESENTS
COASTAL
MELODIES
4 BANDS
EMILY MOLDY
TREEHOUSE ORCHESTRA
YASSOU BENEDICT
THE NATIVE SIBLING
7PM ($5)
SATURDAY 11/17
BITCHEZ BREW REVIEW
THE BEST LITERARY
SHOWCASE IN THE WORLD
7 PM ($5 DONATION)
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Ashkenaz
Music & Dance
Community Center
WED 11/14 9:00 pm $12 GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL
THU 11/15 8:00 pm $15 $12 students CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA CELTIC SYNCOPATHS Supergroup & fiery fiddle tunes, beautiful ballads & more
FRI 11/16 8:30 pm $18 $16 advance WORLD FOLK MARIANNE AYA OMAC Charismatic French singer-songwriter + very special guest JOAN BAEZ
SAT 11/17 9:30 pm $15 $12 advance SACRED SPACES VILLAGE PRESENTS "TIME WAVE ZERO" featuring Dorian Bee Colt, Satchi Om, Kenifaalm, Afro Redtree Shamanatrix, Missy Galore + Visionary Arts Exhibition Continuum
SUN 11/18 3:00 pm $6 adults $4 kids KIDS SHOW ANDY Z Delightful stories & songs — Bay Area Parent Magazine's "Best of the Best"
SUN 11/18 6:30 pm $12 $10 students REGGAE GOSPEL JEFF JOHNSON From old gospel hymns to Bob Marley songs + MICHELE RITTERMAN
TUE 11/20 8:30 pm $11 CAJUN SAUCE PIQUANTE 8 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson
WED 11/21 9:00 pm $12 GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL
HOLIDAY BAZAAR Sun. Dec. 2
Call for Vendors! of music & dance related, handmade, recycled, sustainable, and cultural items. Applications at Ashkenaz.com more info: bazaar@ashkenaz.com (510)525-5099 ext 7
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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Meridian [illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] St., Berkeley CA 94710. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 1126 Berkeley Way #A, Berkeley CA 94702. The business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]
[illegible]
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Earth [illegible]** Street Address: 2626 [illegible] St., Unit B, Oakland, CA 94606. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 2626 [illegible] St., Unit B, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]
[illegible] Earth [illegible]
11/1, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Home Renovation** Street Address: 2124 Colonie St., Oakland, CA 94602. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 2124 Colonie St., Oakland, CA 94602. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/1/12. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/[illegible]/12
[illegible] Home Renovation
10/24, 11/7, 11/14, 11/14/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Dave's Tax & [illegible]** Street Address: 8132 [illegible] St., Oakland CA 94605. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 8132 [illegible] St., Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/[illegible]/12
[illegible] Tax & [illegible] Services
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Ka-Pow! Bakery** Street Address: 611 W Ranger Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: 2007 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 2007 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. The business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/11/12
Ka-Pow! Bakery
11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Homes** Street Address: 3227 [illegible] St., Berkeley, CA 94702. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 3227 [illegible] St., Berkeley, CA 94702. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/11/12
[illegible]
10/31, 11/7, 11/21, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following business is doing business as **[illegible] Renovation LLC** Street Address: 2731 [illegible] St., Oakland CA 94606. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] LLC, 2731 [illegible] Street, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by a limited liability company in CA. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/15/12
[illegible] Associates, LLC
11/21, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Base** Street Address: [illegible] Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/15/12
[illegible] Base
10/24, 11/28, 11/7, 11/14/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Bay Area [illegible] Home** Street Address: 2116 Adeline Street #121 Oakland CA 94608. Mailing Address: PO Box 22601, Oakland, CA 94609 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 2116 Adeline Street #120, Oakland, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 8/2012. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/16/12
Bay Area [illegible] Home
11/21, 11/7, 11/21, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Studio Ephemera** Street Address: [illegible] Way, Berkeley, CA 94710. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] The business is conducted by a General partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/[illegible]/12
Studio Ephemera
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 470[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: 431 13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] Restaurant & Entertainment Group, LLC, [illegible] Oakland, CA 94607; San Francisco [illegible] LLC, 489 13th Street, [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a joint venture in CA. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/12
[illegible]
11/1, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Apt. 508, Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] Apt. 508, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/18/12
[illegible]
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following business is doing business as **Research on Deforestation Art** Street Address: 2731 [illegible] Blvd, Oakland, CA 94601. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 1750 [illegible] St., Oakland, CA 94607. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/18/12
[illegible] Art
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following business is doing business as **Longbranch** Street Address: One Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607. Mailing Address: 180 2nd St., [illegible] Oakland CA 94607 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] LLC, 180 2nd St., Suite [illegible] Oakland CA 94607. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company in CA. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/23/12
Longbranch
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Café Dandy** Street Address: [illegible] Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 4023 [illegible] Ave., Castro Valley CA 94546; [illegible] 4023 [illegible] Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546. This business is conducted by a Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/25/12. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 10/25/12
Café Dandy
11/7, 11/28, 11/14, 11/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Fitness [illegible]** Street Address: 1011 [illegible] Street, Oakland, CA 94606. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] 1011 [illegible] Street, Oakland, CA 94606. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/1/12. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Oakland County on 11/1/12
[illegible] Fitness [illegible]
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: [illegible]
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
February 15, 2013 at 8:30 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], at 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: October 22, 2012.
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Enterprises** Street Address: 18th Grand Ave. #[illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/11/12. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 11/1/12
[illegible] Enterprises
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 471[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94601. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner(s): [illegible] San Francisco, CA 94133. This business is conducted by a Corporation in CA. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/10. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 11/1/12
[illegible]
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible]
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
December 14, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], at 201 13th Street, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: September 18, 2012
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] Elizabeth [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name: LISA ELIZABETH [illegible] to Proposed Name: LISA ELIZABETH [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
January 18, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], at 201 13th Street, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: September 21, 2012
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

Notice is hereby given that a public lien sale will be held by [illegible] on 11/26/2012 at 9:00 am located at 1900 Park Street, Alameda, CA 94501. [illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Zhong Ming Zhu [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: [illegible] to Proposed Name: [illegible] ZHU. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
February 15, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], at 201 13th Street, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California.
Dated: October 22, 2012.
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2012

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Has developed [illegible]
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Needs Volunteers to answer our 24 hour crisis lines. [illegible] **Call for more info: 510-[illegible]**

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Fix your pipes before the End of the World!
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NEW product [illegible] IDEAS WANTED!
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We developed [illegible]
[illegible]

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[illegible] 510-[illegible]

REDUCE YOUR CABLE BILL! [illegible] **1-800-[illegible]**

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ACTORS/MOVIE EXTRAS Needed immediately for upcoming roles $150-$300 /day depending on job requirements. No experience, all looks needed. **1-800-560-8672** for casting times / locations. (AAN CAN)

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Help Wanted!! Make $1000 a week mailing brochures from home! FREE Supplies! Helping Home-Workers since 2001! Genuine Opportunity! No experience required. Start immediately! **www.[illegible]** (AAN CAN)

HELP WANTED [illegible] **1-800-[illegible]** (AAN CAN)

[illegible]
[illegible] openings in Los Angeles area. We are currently hiring [illegible] Kindly send your resume to [illegible]

Help Wanted Earn Extra Money [illegible] **www.[illegible]program.com** (AAN CAN)

Trustee Sale No. 10CA00314 Title Order No. 100099480-CA-MAI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/23/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 11/27/2012 at 12:00 PM, MERIDIAN FORECLOSURE SERVICE f/k/a MTDS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION DBA MERIDIAN TRUST DEED SERVICE as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 08/28/2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006329648 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: WANNETTA HALL, A MARRIED WOMAN, AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, as Trustor, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGEIT, INC., as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA 94612 Legal Description: LOT 14, BOOK 23, MAP OF PROPERTY OF L.M. BEAUDRY AND G. PELADAEU FILED NOVEMBER 6, 1876, MAP BOOK 6, PAGE 14, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $743,896.43 The street address and other common designation of the real property purported as: 5872 BEAUDRY STREET, Emeryville, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1331-016-00 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 573-1965 or visit this Internet Web site www.Priorityposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 10CA00314. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". DATE: 10/30/2012 MERIDIAN FORECLOSURE SERVICE f/k/a MTDS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION DBA MERIDIAN TRUST DEED SERVICE 3 SAN JOAQUIN PLAZA, SUITE 215, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 Sales Line: (714) 573-1965 OR (702) 586-4500 STEPHANIE GARCIA, FORECLOSURE OFFICER MERIDIAN FORECLOSURE SERVICE IS ASSISTING THE BENEFICIARY TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P997626 11/7, 11/14, 11/21/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN: 049-1022-015 TS No: CA08002277-10-1 TO No: 100089950-CA-LPI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED March 21, 2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On December 13, 2012 at 09:00 AM, 3rd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room at Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on March 27, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006115446 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by AMI RICHTER ERIGHT, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1007 41ST ST #133, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonably estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $471,398.56 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08002277-10-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: November 1, 2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA08002277-10-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Lupe Tabita, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM at 800.280.2832 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. To the extent your original obligation was discharged, or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4327663 11/07/2012, 11/14/2012, 11/21/2012

Notice of Intent to Circulate a Petition

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appears hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Emeryville for the purpose of qualifying a ballot measure. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

Democracy: In our representative form of government, depends on the public's ability to understand the city government's proposed actions and communicate its concerns to its elected and appointed representatives. These representatives must have an adequate opportunity to consider those concerns. The purpose of this ordinance is to codify certain existing practices, and to adopt new practices, to provide greater public notice whenever the City is considering taking any action that would impact an Emeryville resident, property or business owner. This ordinance increases the transparency of Emeryville City Government by requiring useful information to be provided to the public in a timely and convenient manner. It also requires adequate records of all City meetings be prepared, maintained, and made available to the public as appropriate. This ordinance requires the City to provide a minimum of TEN days advance public notice prior to taking action on any agenda item by any legislative body in the City of Emeryville with the exception of urgency items.

Signed: Kori Bukowski 5040 Doyle Street, Emeryville Ca. 94608 (510) 305-0000

The City Attorney has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purposes and points of the proposed measure: [illegible] of State Law To Continue And Modify Existing City Practices, And Implement New Measures Regarding Public Meetings and Public Information. This measure would require the City of Emeryville to continue to comply with existing provisions of State law which regulate the conduct of and the right of the public to access documents distributed in connection with public meetings. This measure would require the City to continue certain existing practices. As an example the measure requires the City's web page to provide a form to request email notice of public meetings, to video record all public meetings where final legislative action is taken, to make available content syndication technology such as RSS, and to provide a complete paper copy of an agenda packet to anyone who requests one. The measure would require the City to modify existing practices and create and maintain a centralized public information section on its website containing the City's budget, department staffing levels, crime, fire and hazardous materials incidents, number of traffic citations, increases in fees, fines and penalties enacted in previous year, salaries and benefits of City employees, voting records of City Council and Planning Commission members, listing of new laws and changes to existing laws and regulations enacted in previous year, and archive of video recordings of City Council and Planning Commission meetings and audio recordings of all City committee meetings for previous 5 years. Most of this information is available on the City's website, but not in a centralized location nor compiled as mandated by this measure. The measure also requires the City to provide a complete agenda packet via email to any resident, business or property owner who requests it; the City currently provides email notice of and a link to the agenda packet. The measure imposes new requirements on the City. With the exception of urgency items, the City will be required to provide 10 days advance email notice to all residents, property and business owners who submit their email addresses to receive notice whenever the City is considering taking action that would: 1) levy a new or increase an existing tax or fee on any resident or property or business owner; 2) reasonably impact the value of real or personal business or real property if the subject of the City action is located within 500 feet of the business or real property; or 3) restrict the operation of any business or use of land which was allowed or in existence prior to the time of the contemplated action. The measure requires the City to post public notices on a bulletin board at City Hall in addition to the three public places it currently posts such notices in accordance with state law. Finally, the measure requires the City Council to audio record all attorney-client closed session meetings and maintain those recordings for 5 years. Such recordings would be available by court order on a showing of good cause.

NOTICE TO CLASS

IF YOU LIVED AT THE SUTTER HOTEL LOCATED AT 584 14TH STREET OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA FOR AT LEAST 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS DURING THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 12, 2010 UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2011 THIS NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS

Residents of the Sutter Hotel have sued the owners/managers claiming that the Sutter has had an illegal practice of requiring residents who lived at the Sutter for more than 30 (thirty) consecutive days to move, to check out and register in the same or a different room before the expiration of 30 days. The lawsuit is called Veasey v. Oakland Sutter Hotel, LP Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG 11-[illegible]. The Court decided this lawsuit should be a "Class Action" on behalf of a "Class," or group of people that may include you. This notice summarizes your rights and options in this case. More information is in a detailed notice available at the website below. If you're included, you have to decide whether to stay in the Class and be bound by whatever results, or ask to be excluded. There is no money available now, but there may be money or other benefits available through settlement or trial. There are no guarantees that money or other benefits will be available.

ARE YOU AFFECTED?

If you lived at the Sutter Hotel for 30 days or more consecutive days at any time during the period of August 12, 2010 until November 30, 2011 and moved rooms before 30 days expired you may be part of the class. If you are not sure if you are included you can call or write the lawyers at the phone number or address below.

WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

The lawsuit is about whether the owners of the Sutter Hotel illegally required residents to move from room to room every 28 days or leave the Hotel, in violation of their rights. Plaintiffs are suing to make sure the practice is stopped, and to sue for money damages. The Sutter Hotel owners/managers deny that they did anything wrong. The Court has not yet made any decision as to whether the Class or the Sutter Hotel is right.

WHO REPRESENTS YOU?

The Court has decided that the law firms of Greenstein and McDonald, 300 Montgomery Street, Suite 421, San Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 773-1240 and Law Office of Jay B. Koslofsky, P.O. Box 9238, Berkeley, CA 94709 (510) 280-5627 are qualified to represent you and class members. Together the law firms are called "class counsel." They are experienced in handling similar cases. The Court has accepted "Class Representatives whose claims are typical of the Class." You may hire your own lawyer. If you want your own lawyer, you will have to pay for that lawyer, if you want someone other than Class Counsel.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

You don't have to do anything now if you want to keep the possibility of getting money or benefits from this lawsuit. By doing nothing you are staying in the class. If you stay in the case, and the Plaintiffs obtain money or benefits either as a result of settlement or trial, you will be notified about how to apply for a share (or you may object to the settlement). If you do nothing you will be legally bound by any orders or judgments the Court enters in this case. If you exclude yourself from the Class, you won't get any money or benefits from the lawsuit even if the Plaintiffs receive them by settlement or trial. If you exclude yourself, you can file your own separate lawsuit but will have to hire and pay for your own lawyers, and you will have to prove your claims.

To ask to be excluded, you must send an "Exclusion Request" in the form of a letter sent by mail stating that you want to be excluded from the Veasey v. Oakland Sutter Hotel LP class. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number and sign the letter. The letter should be sent to: Kenneth Greenstein, Greenstein and McDonald, 300 Montgomery Street, Suite 421, San Francisco, CA 94104. You must mail your Exclusion Request postmarked by December 30, 2012.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the website www.sutterhotellawsuit.com, where you will find the Court's Order Certifying the Class, the Complaint that the Plaintiffs submitted, and the Defendants' Answer to Complaint. You may also speak to one of the lawyers by calling Kenneth Greenstein (415) 773-1240 or Jay B. Koslofsky (510) 280-5627. You may also write to Greenstein and McDonald at 300 Montgomery at Suite 421, San Francisco, CA 94104.

WHO'S AFFECTED?

Sutter Hotel residents who resided at the Hotel for 30 or more consecutive days who moved, or checked-out of a room at the Hotel and registered in the same or a different room before the expiration of 30 days at any time during the period of August 12, 2010 and November 30, 2011.

If you are a class member, your deadline to opt-out is December 30, 2012.

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[illegible]
925-[illegible]

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510-883-9488

Crystal Island Massage
[illegible] Massage [illegible] Shower [illegible]
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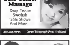
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Title Order No. 7342-450365 Trustee Sale No. 2012-1430 Reference No. BR-0093 0030-01 APN No. 049-1532-012 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 11/21/2012 at 11:00 AM S.B.S. LIEN SERVICES As the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on November 3, 2011 as Document No. 2011318056 Book, Page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, The original owner: BERNARD ISRAEL The purported new owner: BERNARD ISRAEL WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a State or National bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.): At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA. All right, title and interest under Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County as more fully described on the above referenced assessment lien. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVE #5304 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee, to-wit: $[illegible] accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The claimant: BRIDGEWATER OWNERS ASSOCIATION under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call FOR SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO [illegible] or visit the Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com using the file number assigned to this case [illegible]. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD SUBJECT TO THE NINETY DAY RIGHT OF REDEMPTION CONTAINED IN CIVIL CODE SECTION 1367.4 (C)(4). PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (714)573-1965 or LOG ONTO www.priorityposting.com Date: [illegible] S.B.S. Lien Services 31194 La Baya Drive, Suite 106 Westlake Village, CA 91362 Annissa Young, Trustee Sale Officer WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P994934 [illegible] 11/14/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN: 049-1531-061-00 TS No: CA08003378-11-2 TO No: [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED October 10, 2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On December 13, 2012 at 09:00 AM, 2nd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room at Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on October 13, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006385195 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by ZOHREH TAJBAKHSH, UNMARRIED, as Trustor(s), in favor of JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6363 CHRISTIE AVE 504, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $[illegible] (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case: CA08003378-11-2. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: November 7, 2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA08003378-11-2 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Lupe Tabita, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM at 800.280.2832 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. To the extent your original obligation was discharged, or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4326467 11/14/2012, 11/21/2012, 11/28/2012

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